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Ownership of Strategic Forces Remains Unresolved

LD2301194493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The question of which nations own strategic forces remains acute and unresolved. Ukraine's view is that there is no reason to recognize the strategic nuclear forces stationed on its territory as belonging to Russia. The Russian side is putting forward fairly weighty arguments in favor of all nuclear weapons remaining after the collapse of the USSR being recognized as Russian property, since it was Russia that undertook the main obligations to implement the Soviet-American START Treaty. Belarus agrees and Kazakhstan's attitude is similar. Thus today, there are within the nuclear club of the Commonwealth two different approaches to the issue.

Russian, Ukrainian Experts To Begin Nuclear Verification

OW2401165493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On January 26, Russian and Ukrainian military experts are expected to start verifying the composition of the strategic nuclear forces, Russia's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told INTERFAX. Due to the disagreements on the issue between the two states, the CIS summit did not approve the document on amending the agreement on the CIS strategic forces. Grachev expressed hope that bilateral talks will help find a compromise.

In an interview with INTERFAX, Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Ivan Bizhan explained how Kiev understood the term "strategic nuclear forces". "In our opinion, the strategic nuclear forces must encompass nuclear weapons, nuclear installations, strategic forces, strategic aviation and the forces servicing them," he said. He also expressed hope that the Moscow talks on the strategic forces will be a success, but gave to understand that Ukraine is not going to make serious concessions.

Kiev's Stance on Nuclear Disarmament Examined

PM2201093193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

["Commentary" by Vladimir Tyurkin, deputy editor of the CIS desk: "Nuclear Button Against a Backdrop of a Bronze Bell"]

[Text] Nuclear disarmament stood out among the conundrums in Russian-Ukrainian relations over which Presidents B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk fought for several hours during a row in Moscow. The problem emerged from nowhere, it would seem—after all Kiev dressed up its independence not least in its solemn commitment to adhere to the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Weapons (START I) as well as the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

But subsequently, and unlike Minsk and Alma-Ata which kept their word, Kiev's position started to erode, it lost precision, and a quiet panic set in in NATO, primarily in Washington, on which 176 "Ukrainian" intercontinental missiles are targeted. Kiev moved from unconditional to conditional nuclear disarmament, demanding material compensation and guarantees of security.

No matter how events may develop henceforth, Kiev has at least managed to achieve three things: First, to leave a mark for ever that it held the fate of the START II Treaty between Russia and the United States in its hands, because the preceding one—START I—is unfulfillable without Kiev's participation; second, to receive $175 million from the United States for the transportation, storage, and dismantling of missile weapons ($1.5 billion was requested); and third, in the course of the Moscow summit meeting, to obtain promises from Moscow and Washington to give nuclear-free Ukraine guarantees of protection against each other—"counter" guarantees of security, so to speak, which have brightened up the international landscape with something that is both unprecedented and at the same time painfully familiar—something along the lines of "counter plans."

But seriously speaking, the 176 missiles and 30 strategic bombers with 1,656 warheads could have become the object of far greater worries for the international community if it had not been for the considered and sober approach that the Ukrainian leadership ultimately displayed.

There is a great deal of evidence in favor of the idea that the "nuclear rebellion" was a tactical maneuver with the purpose of obtaining quite specific advantages rather than a reflection of the positions of extreme nationalists in the Rada and certain parapolitical circles. The West is also noting this fact.

One of few journalists—if not the only one—to be allowed into the presidential apartments at the heat of Kiev's "antidisarmament" campaign was a correspondent from the Italian journal PANORAMA. L. Kravchuk led his guest to the "nuclear button"—two grey telephones connecting his office with the command of the 43d Brigade. They are arranged far from the writing desk, and next to them stands a small bronze bell and a photograph of a fair-haired girl. "Before I give or refuse permission for the launching of missiles, I have to walk these three meters. Another few extra seconds for thinking," L. Kravchuk explains. "And I want to see before me the photograph of my beloved granddaughter Masha. And this bell is to remind me of the bell of Chernobyl." PANORAMA described the Ukrainian leader as "calm and level-headed," but without omitting to note casually that "he is one of the eight or nine heads of state who can destroy the planet."

And finally, the undoubted softening of the tone and the very recent unequivocal assurances by many Ukrainian officials of adherence to a nuclear-free course testify in favor

of common sense. These assurances are also being corroborated by relevant agreements. In particular, it was arranged in Moscow that the governments would be instructed immediately to start talks with the aim of settling all problems connected with the implementation of the START I Treaty, including those concerning the disassembly, transportation, and destruction of warheads.

In the same way that the START II Treaty's ratification by the Russian parliament is an indispensable condition for its implementation, Ukraine's adherence to START I is conditioned by its approval by the Rada. There are practically no obstacles left on this path. The ball is in the president's court—it is up to him to submit it to the Ukrainian parliament.

Berdennikov Interviewed on Chemical Weapons Convention

PM2201111593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov by RIA correspondent Vitaliy Dymarskiy in Paris; date not given: "Russia Will Have To Destroy 40,000 Tonnes of Toxic Chemicals"]

[Text] It has already been reported that a three-day ceremony to sign the international convention banning the development, production, storage, and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction took place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris 13-15 January. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was one of the first to put his signature to this document, which envisages the complete eradication of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. The convention, the need for which has long been talked about in the international community, has become a reality. It will have to be reckoned with both by the countries which have signed it, and by the countries yet to accede to it (a number of Arab states, North Korea), as it incorporates a "coercion mechanism" —embargoes, trade restrictions, and other economic sanctions against "non-signatories."

How does Russia view the convention, its importance, and the problems it will create for our country? Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov answers these and other questions in an interview in Paris by RIA's own correspondent Vitaliy Dymarskiy, exclusively for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI.

[Berdennikov] Russia raised the question of banning chemical weapons as far back as at the end of the last century. At that time, they were the most horrific of weapons. As we know, they were widely used in World War I. The Geneva Protocol banning the use of chemical weapons in warfare was signed in 1925. It is largely thanks to this document that these weapons were virtually abandoned in World War II. But then many countries, including the USSR, actively set about developing and storing chemical weapons. A slow and lengthy talks process went on simultaneously.

Now, finally, the most radical step has been taken: The convention not only prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of these weapons, but it also envisages their total destruction. This is a first in the disarmament sphere.

[Dymarskiy] There is much talk of the convention's revolutionary nature behind the scenes at the Paris meeting. How, in your view, is this manifested?

[Berdennikov] We agree with this evaluation. Primarily, it concerns the monitoring mechanism built into the convention, which is unprecedented in its reliability. What I mean is the so-called system of verification on demand. It is sufficient for any state acceding to the convention to file a request with a specially created organization (to be based in The Hague) so that an inspection group is dispatched immediately to verify the suspected location or facility, and moreover the petitioned side is not entitled to refuse its visit. Meanwhile, specific procedures are laid down to prevent abuses if the matter concerns the civilian chemical industry rather than military objectives. This monitoring mechanism is indeed a breakthrough which will facilitate the solution of other potential disarmament problems in the future.

[Dymarskiy] All commentaries about the convention carried in the Western press mention Russia in one form or another. Much is said about the complexities Russia will have to face in honoring the commitments undertaken, about its technical inadequacies, and about the fact that it is more expensive to destroy chemical weapons than to produce them.

[Berdennikov] There is a great deal of journalistic assumption here. Of course there are difficulties. But the real picture is this: There are 40,000 tonnes of toxic chemicals in our country, partly contained in warheads and partly in large silos. But neither the warheads nor the silos are everlasting—they are getting old, they are starting to leek. Convention or no convention, these toxins need to be destroyed. How should this be done—in unison with the whole world, or on a unilateral basis? In my view, the answer is clear. Furthermore, now we can rely on specific help from many states.

For us, the main condition is not to damage the environment. A special interdepartmental committee led by Academician Kuntsevich is working out the first stage of the destruction of chemical weapons. Since ecological movements demanded the closure of the Chapayevsk plant, which was destroying chemical weapons, nobody has been willing to take on this process [proizvodstvo]. Everybody says: We are in favor of it, but not in my backyard.

It has to be said that the actual convention which Russia signed and which, consequently, it will honor, bans certain methods of destruction which pollute the environment (such as burning in the open air.) But our Russian standards are quite strict. Stricter, for instance, than America's: They deploy direct burning techniques [tekhnologiya pryamovo

szhiganiya] inside the canister (with the appropriate filters, of course), whereas in our country neutralization is required before burning.

[Dymarskiy] What further steps do you anticipate in the disarmament sphere?

[Berdennikov] A favorable situation has developed as regards nuclear test bans: For the first time ever three countries—Russia, the United States, and France—have observed this ban over such a long period. I think that the prospect of beginning talks in order to reach a decision envisaging a definitive and irreversible moratorium on tests is a real one. Another major problem is the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Here, too, more reliable international agreements need to be attained.

CIS Heads of State Express Optimism on Summit Results

Leaders Answer Questions

LD2201184293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1528 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Question and answer portion of a news conference by CIS heads of state attending the Minsk summit, moderated by Ivan Korotchenya with correspondents, identified where possible, in Minsk—live]

[Text] [Correspondent Bortnikov, MOLOD UKRAYINY and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] I have a question about work on the CIS Charter. At the last briefing, we were told that there were quite a few disagreements. It would be interesting to know what decision the presidents have reached, nevertheless, and how they see events in the future now, the principles for the development of the CIS, and the form of participation of their states in it. That is a question primarily, of course, for the presidents of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Thank you.

[Korotchenya] Well, perhaps they will answer at this point. Boris Nikolayevich, you will be the first.

[Yeltsin] Yes, that was, perhaps, one of the most complicated questions today at the sitting of the Commonwealth heads of state. We knew beforehand that there would be some disagreements. So we prepared ourselves to find mutually acceptable decisions, nevertheless. After a rather tightly packed discussion, we came to such a decision.

First: The charter, or the decision on the charter in the form in which the decision had been prepared, is to be signed by those heads of states who are today ready to sign it. It has been signed by seven heads of states.

But then, bearing in mind the positions of several heads of state and statements to the effect that the charter had been insufficiently prepared, and for other reasons, we all agreed, nevertheless, in order to show the attitude of absolutely all the heads of states toward the charter, to sign a general statement on it. This general statement was signed by all the heads of states.

The main thing is that the statement says that the decision to sign the charter is declared to be open for signing at any time for any head of state. A state that today is not ready, or needs time for study, for examination, or for some comments, may do that and, accordingly, in a month or two accede and sign the decision on the CIS Charter.

Remember, we began with that a year ago, on 8 December, when the Beloveshskaya Pushcha agreement was signed to create the Commonwealth. We called on other states to sign and accede to this agreement. After that another eight states signed up, three did not. So now a total of 11 have done this and are in the CIS. So, I believe that by our joint intellectual efforts we have found today a decision that suits all and does not create any, perhaps, difficulties regarding the national interests of any individual states.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you. And do you have a different viewpoint? [Korotchenya prompts Kravchuk]

[Kravchuk] I believe that....[interrupted by commotion from floor] not because I have a different viewpoint, although that goes without saying, but because I was down to answer that question after Boris Nikolayevich anyway. I agree with what Boris Nikolayevich said. What would I like to point out?

First, that the heads of state unanimously confirmed that the CIS as a structure does have the potential to improve the way it functions, in all ways and both politically and economically. Second, that states that have or have not signed the charter or the decision on the charter are not burdened with any consequences whatsoever.

That is, the CIS is functioning and we are all members of the CIS, actively involved in making it better. That is very important and I ask you to take note of it, because many people have been thinking just recently that anyone who does not sign it will end up outside the CIS and thus will be subjected to some kind of political, economic, or other influence. The shared declaration, which we have all signed, sets out the principal thought that the most important issue today is an economic agreement. Accordingly, we have ordered such an agreement to be prepared, after doing everything possible to remove the existing obstructions to economic interaction and cooperation.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Microphone No. 2, please.

[Unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent] Stanislav Shushkevich, the problem of nuclear forces figured yesterday in the framework of the committee of four defense ministers, and it has been present today on the agenda of the heads of state. What is the general outcome of that discussion?

[Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich] I do not quite understand the question.

[Correspondent] The question is that the problem of the nuclear forces was discussed yesterday in the framework of the nuclear policy committee and today by you. What is the general upshot of the discussion?

[Shushkevich] I see. You know, the general upshot of the discussion is confirmation of the positions taken by the states of the CIS—on the issue of collective security they occupy various positions—and recognition, in general, by all the heads of state, of their right to occupy such a position.

Take Belarus, for example, which does not participate in the collective system and is aware that it now finds itself, in effect, in a union which is the product of years gone

by; and we have declared, for example, that we consider the nuclear troops on the territory of the Republic of Belarus as nuclear troops of the Russian Federation, and we are resolving all questions of the withdrawal of those Russian troops on the basis of bilateral agreements. So much for Belarus. There are other approaches to this issue, and as for all the other positions, I repeat, on collective defense, we have not participated in it by virtue of our legislation. So, the issue is being resolved, is being resolved in a civilized manner, and we do not need any sort of super-unified approach in this.

[Unidentified Moldovan Television correspondent] I have a question for Boris Yeltsin. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in one of his interviews that you would come with a whole packet of fundamental suggestions for reinforcing the CIS, and it was quite possible that this would be a new doctrine for the CIS. Is that so?

[Korotchnenya] Boris Nikolayevich, a question for you.

[Yeltsin] I understand that it is for me. I do not want to leave Andrey Vladimirovich [Kozyrev] in an uncomfortable position. Yes, Russia has a packet of suggestions for the completion of the work of the CIS as a whole. These are serious suggestions for 1993 and 1995.

But today there was a very intense agenda, and so I decided that, bearing in mind that the very complex issue of the CIS Charter was down for today, I should not complicate matters by introducing other large and problematic issues. I should bring this packet to the following sitting and prepare all the other heads of state accordingly through the coordinator of the Commonwealth working group. We will lay out suggestions of this type literally in a few days.

[Korotchenya] Yes, on the CIS. The fourth microphone, please.

[Correspondent Kagub Asatryan] The treaty on collective security was signed at the Tashkent meeting. But so far this treaty was only ratified by Armenia. When are the other republics who signed the treaty planning to ratify this one?

[Korotchenya] It looks as if this question is addressed to everyone who has not signed the treaty.

[Asatryan] Yes, certainly.

[Korotchenya] I mean to everyone who has not ratified it, whose parliaments have not ratified it.

[Asatryan] Yes, that is right.

[Korotchenya] It looks as if it is up to the parliaments. These issues will be examined in the near future.

[Asatryan] But what about presidents' standpoints?

[Unidentified male speaker] Their stance is that it should be signed.

[Yeltsin] Presidents signed the treaty and their stance is clear. It is now up to the positions of the Supreme Soviets. But I do not think they will differ from the positions of presidents. Time is needed for them to get used to presidents' positions.

[Korotchenya] This reply is quite clear. Over to the additional microphone.

[DIP KURYER correspondent Kazantsev] My question is to the presidents of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. You are known for your active and fruitful activities within the framework of the CIS Supreme Council. Could you tell me how you are planning to integrate the newly-formed union of Asian states and the CIS? Have any ways for consolidating their efforts now taken shape?

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Over to you, Nursultan Abishevich.

[Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev] Uzbekistan was named first. [laughter]

[Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov] From the very start, if I understood you correctly, you stressed that we are taking active part in the work of the CIS and doing our best to further strengthen this commonwealth. This is why it looks to me as if the second part of your question, to some extent, depends on the first one. The Tashkent meeting, which brought together the presidents, heads, of the five republics, caused—I will be direct—great interest; created quite a stir, far beyond the CIS itself.

We are well aware that this meeting was being interpreted in different ways. But, it is good that you raised this question, and Nursulan Abishevich and I will probably succeed in reassuring public opinion that the Tashkent meeting was not at all aimed at creating some sort of a local formation going against the CIS. That is why I would like to give a specific reply to your question. We, the Central Asian republics—Kazakhstan, who can justly be described as Central Asia—as the Central Asian countries, will carry on cooperating, first and foremost—bearing in mind our similar historical, common economic, cultural, and ethnic, if you wish, interests—in a more sensible and more effective use of the potential that has formed and that exists in this region in the name of the well-being and prosperity of this region, above all.

But there is one issue about which I want to speak openly and honestly. When the CIS was founded, and more recently, there have been many prophets among you journalists in particular who have continued to predict that the CIS would end its activities. This issue was discussed in Tashkent, too, and we all came here with one mind, namely that if the CIS exists in some amorphous sort of form, that is, if each country in this CIS acts only its own interests, if it does not operate as a commonwealth in the interest of all the member countries, then we shall be compelled to make more effective

use of our potential in order effectively to develop our countries and in order to emerge from crisis in which we all find ourselves.

You are all very well aware that in terms of economic and social development our countries have considerably lagged behind other regions, and still do. The interests of our peoples demand that we cooperate more effectively so as better to utilize our potential.

[Korotchenya] Thank you, Islam Abduganiyevich.

[Nazarbayev] I support what President Karimov has said about the Tashkent meeting, and I think you are aware of the studies that have been done and the journalistic analyses that have been published. No other sort of state formation was discussed. Central Asia and Kazakhstan have very many important common lines of communications with other states, too. We spoke about jointly ensuring power supplies; about an alternative way out to the warm seas southwards by rail via Iran and Turkey, via the Caspian southwards, via China to the Pacific, and about the problem of the Aral Sea—these are problems of concern to all of us. I shall end this question by saying I am very glad that the Tashkent meeting had a favorable impact upon on our meeting today.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Anything else?

[Nazarbayev] I would like to answer the second part of the question about the CIS. When the document, the Alma-Ata Declaration, was signed in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, every president and every state evidently made their own evaluation of this commonwealth.

I have always been for integration, not because Kazakhstan values its sovereignty and independence less than others. I, as someone who has always worked in the economy, understood that for a peaceful divorce—for it was like this that some imagined it—time is also necessary. It was possible for us to do all this with fewer losses for the economy and our peoples. Therefore I introduced from session to session the constructive proposal that our economic space continue to function so that the crisis would not hit our peoples so hard.

I will tell you openly, esteemed journalists, I am very satisifed today. Why? Because today documents introduced by me were signed: the interstate bank with all the resulting effects so that today the ruble zone can now work normally for those that want to be in the ruble zone; the coordinating economic committee we created today within the framework of the charter—the interstate economic court was created earlier.

Today my final proposal was not passed—on the creation of an arbitration court like the Hague Court for the states of the CIS which would examine conflict, interstate, interethnic issues. Authoratitive judges representing the authorative states of the world would resolve any conflicts which arise. But I am glad that this issue will be examined at the next session.

If you do not count the Baltic states, then there were 12 of us in the former Soviet Union. Georgia is not a member of the CIS. Azerbaijan was present as an observer, but is also not a member. Moldova is not a member. So there are in effect nine states in the CIS. Seven of the nine states signed the charter. It is these states that should be considered the integrators of the CIS. Therefore, in the future those states that supported and signed and ratified the document on, one: the defense union; two: the interbank union; three: the coordinating economic council; four: the interstate court—they must determine their position on better rapprochment in the future. I have an idea about this. But since Boris Nikolayevich is not opening up, I will not talk about this either for the time being.

[Korotchenya] Boris Nikolayevich, please.

[Yeltsin] I would like to say on behalf of the states which did not take part in Tashkent that we, Russia—the Russian leadership—are not averse to what happened in Tashkent or to the decisions made there by the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan.

We believe that there can be multilateral forms of cooperation within the CIS: between two, three, or five members. As long as it does not destroy the CIS. The Tashkent summit was aimed at resolving issues that are highly specific to that particular region. They apply less to Ukraine, perhaps, to Russia and to some other states, but to them [the Central Asian states], they are specific and they were discussed. This can only be welcomed. In no circumstances should any kind of malicious intent be sought here.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Let me remind you...

[Nazarbayev, interrupting] Ivan Mikhaylovich [Korotchenya], let me add that if this causes any doubts, recently in Omsk, 24 oblasts from Russia and Kazakhstan got together and discussed how to ensure decent living conditions and how not to shut ourselves off behind obstacles and borders. Why don't you journalists ever mention that? All the interest for some reason is in Tashkent. Those meetings were identical. They focused on how to work together in these difficult conditions so that we can maintain economic contact with each other, trade with each other, and continue supplying what we have always supplied for many, many years.

[Korotchenya] Let me remind you that our time is coming to an end, so... [unidentified correspondent asks if a short question is possible] Wait a second. Let's do it this way: one short question from each microphone. We have five microphones. Go ahead with your philosophical one.

[IZVESTIYA correspondent Vasiliy Kononenko] My question is somewhat philosophical, but first of all...

[Korotchenya] That microphone obviously is not working.

[Kononenko continues] ...to the heads of state, especially of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. How do you perceive the outcome of the CIS' first year in existence, since you were late in coming to the anniversary summit? Then, would you have lost anything had the CIS not come into existence following the collapse of the Soviet Union, in the light of the principles that you put into the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreement? Thank you.

[Korotchenya] Boris Nikolayevich, go ahead.

[Kononenko] The year-end outcome, year-end outcome.

[Yeltsin] I understand, even though the microphone has broken. I understand, but the microphone is not working. The results of the year in the CIS. Things went on normally, natural for young states just created, of finding one's place in the world, of understanding one's fundamental interests. The Commonwealth was alive, it was gaining experience and certainly a lot has been done. A chaotic breakdown of a nuclear power has been stopped. Can you imagine, if there had not been a CIS, what would have happened to the four nuclear powers? An understanding has been reached on the necessity of preserving the whole complex of ties, especially in the conditions of an economic crisis. We have understood that we cannot live without each other, inter alia Russia. Although, perhaps, it is better protected from the point of view of its size, it also cannot live without Tajikistan, and without Ukraine, and without Belarus and any other CIS republic.

There has been some experience of peacemaking actions. What neither the CSCE nor the UN Security Council have managed to do, CIS peacemaking forces have managed to do in some interethnic conflict regions. The Commonwealth is the only realistic form and civilized solution to common problems. At present the problem of filling our relations with a new quality has come to the fore.

The CIS is faced with a choice: either vegetation and imitation of efforts or turning it into one of the influential integration associations in the world. It is in the common interest to work out a mechanism of implementing decisions—we have made 250 decisions over little more than a year since 8 December here in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. We are not late for an anniversary as this is not a person's anniversary but an organization's anniversary, and it can be celebrated a little more than a month late.

[Shushkevich] If I may, I would like to say the following: I am absolutely convinced that the Republic of Belarus has managed to achieve the basic goals it set itself thanks to the CIS. Namely, a 1.4-percent increase in industrial output compared with the previous year, and in December there was an increase of 13.5 percent. True, this is all in comparison with the figures for last year, as is always done. I am convinced that without the CIS, on the basis of bilateral accords alone, we would not have managed to resolve a whole series of issues which have been resolved by means of multilateral accords. Similar trends are, I think, to be observed in other states, though sometimes with some delay.

Second, we have come to champion a genuinely law-governed approach and high standards of morality in politics, tackling all issues on the basis of law: On the basis of treaties concluded and not following the injunction of power structures and the approaches of big brothers. An atmosphere of worthy cooperation reigns among us that has never existed before. The peoples of all nations can see this, which is why I am absolutely convinced that the CIS will enjoy the support of these nations.

The third thing I would like to say is that there has been enough talk about the Soviet Union being brought down at Belovezhskaya Pushcha. It was brought down before that by those who were striving to be in power, who were aspiring to hold onto their positions and did not seek to observe the interests of a great state. There would naturally have been closer forms of integration if action had been sensibly taken earlier. Thank goodness we halted this senseless process of collapse in time, and results are there to be seen, I think. Never yet have heads of state and heads of government met with such respect for one another and such understanding of one another's dignity. That is the main result of the CIS, and as for the economy, we will get it moving.

[Korotchenya] Leonid Makarovich, over to you.

[Kravchuk] I shall also attempt to give a somewhat philosophical answer to your philosophical question. First of all, though, one cannot regard the results of the CIS separately from the results of the states making up the CIS. Where the economic sphere is concerned, then I can say wholly accountably that things are currently pretty bad, perhaps very bad. No figures can allay our worries at the moment, because our peoples' lives do not meet even the most basic requirements. That is the first thing.

But one could ask: What if there were no CIS? Would things be better or worse? Now there's a philosphical question for you. My answer to that would be that things would be worse. Things would be worse because given the mentality of our people, who have lived for so many years under the empire and the Union, and given the multiethnic nature of the states and peoples, conflicts could arise with no comparison.

Everything that happens prior to that would seem to be absolutely trivial. I state quite authoritatively that in this respect the CIS has served as a formula that has channelled this disintegration in a civilized direction. We have the CIS to thank for another important philosophical principle, namely the fact that democracy, freedom, human rights can never, in any way, go hand in hand with a union that is imperialist in nature. This can never happen. No sooner had they declared—declared, I stress, because they had not gotten around to taking any steps at that stage—as soon as they declared that every people, every nation is entitled to self-determination, then the Union began to come apart at the seams. Nobody and

nothing could ever have saved it, except the coercion agencies or the CPSU, which kept a firm hold on all this.

The CIS has confirmed this. The CIS confirmed that we can only live as independent, sovereign, independent states and partners which respect each other. Overcoming the grievous legacy of the past, the grievous consequences of both old and new thinking, we are gradually, step by step, moving to the point where we begin to respect each other. Today's meeting has, I think, confirmed that we have begun to respect each other, that each of us has begun to be mindful not only of our own interests, but others' interests too—some bigger than others. We have our own traditions, our own religions.

Why has attention been focused so strongly on the Tashkent meeting? Because those states united on a different basis—well, they didn't unite, but they resolved questions in accordance with a certain principle. I think that if Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus had held a meeting, the attention would have been just as great. People would have begun to ask me about the Slav factor. That is only natural, to be expected. Thus, all this has to be analyzed in a very calm and informed way.

There is another conclusion one can make. Once we have embarked upon the road of independent states, we must never, under any circumstance, divert from it. That will be a historic decision. We have made a great step towards it today. I would very much like the future steps we make always to be commensurate with this, and to be viewed with respect from this viewpoint. Third—or fourth, I lost count—the CIS has confirmed that not all issues need to be tackled within the framework of the CIS. There is the bilateral agreement, which in a number of cases is of far more importance than the compass of a joint decision.

The summit meetings which have taken place in Russia, Ukraine, and elsewhere have confirmed that this is the way we should act, combining rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's, as the saying goes—that is, what comes under the CIS should be dealt with in the CIS and what is a bilateral matter should come within bilateral agreements. It should not be regarded as an all-embracing structure capable of resolving everything.

Finally, on the question of integration. I would like us all to understand one thing: The integration that existed within the Soviet Union was built upon the principles of administratively centralized planning. If we desire progress, the links that used to exist cannot be preserved. Those that are not necessary, that were imposed so as to import things from the Far East to Ukraine, or if you will excuse the example, to take large-diameter pipes from Ukraine to Russia and small-diameter pipes from Russia to Ukraine—these links must gradually be severed, otherwise the economy will never be profitable and efficient. We must look to integration within the CIS, but must not become isolated within this. There is a broader sort of integration, world integration, international division of labor. There are technologies both here and there, and we must combine both one and the other, otherwise we shall become an isolated structure which will be unable to embark upon major solutions.

The very last thing: We must understand that there are some problems we can resolve only today and only within the CIS. Let us have no illusions that other states have a great interest in there being a powerful Russia and a strong Ukraine, and in having them go out into the international market and immediately squeeze out others—nothing of the sort. We have greater opportunities to tackle issues where we live, and we must do that. Everything else is to be regarded through the prism of universal human rights and freedoms, international principles which are laid down and which are confessed by all peoples in the world, without being separated from the general process.

[Korotchenya] Thank you, Leonid Makarovich.

[Korotchenya] The woman at the first microphone, please.

[Tajik Television correspondent Rakhimova] I have two questions, the first one for Yeltsin. As we all know, the Tajik-Afghan border is not only Tajikstan's border, it is also regarded as a CIS border. Could you tell, please, whether measures are being taken by CIS heads of state to ensure reliable protection for the border?

[Shushkevich] As chairman, I can answer that a comprehensive and broad decision was adopted on this issue today, and this border will be closed, I am convinced.

[Yeltsin] It was on the agenda of the meeting of heads of state today: The situation in Tajikistan and the measures the Commonwealth of Independent States has to take to help Tajikistan's new leadership, its Supreme Soviet, and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet to stabilize the situation, stop the deadly war and close the border with Afghanistan. These two issues were rolled into one during discussion, and two decisions were adopted as follows: In order to reinforce the border, in addition to the Russian border troops that are there and are, of course, insufficient to protect 2,000 km, five states that have signed the agreement on collective security will each send a battalion, 500 people, to reinforce the Tajik-Afghan border. I am certain that soon this border will be firmly closed.

[Rakhimova] When will...

[Korotchenya, interrupting] Thank you, only one question is allowed. Second microphone, please.

[Karimov interrupts] May I add something? I would like to clarify this issue a little since this issue directly involves us. To hope that the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan... [changes thought] This is, indeed, not only a border between these two states but something that tomorrow can turn into an open door to all CIS countries from the point of view of arms smuggling, drug

smuggling, and many other disgusting realities that are already bursting forth onto CIS territory.

I would like to stress one thing so that Tajikistan does not think, after all, that someone must come to defend them. Each population should be able to defend itself and each state, if it is sovereign and independent, should also form its own divisions which would be able, with our help, to close its border. I would like to stress this thought only in order to avoid conflicting views on this issue. Otherwise, the idea may come up that someone will come to defend Tajikistan. Tajikistan is no different from other republics, and I am sure that it can protect its border if there is stability, peace and, eventually, mutual understanding there between the groups that have brought about this unstable situation.

[Korotchenya] Now the queston from the second microphone, and then the third microphone.

[ZA VILNU UKRAINU correspondent Mykhaylov] Today is an important day for Ukraine—an anniversary of western Ukraine's reunification with greater Ukraine. I would like to congratulate my president and prime minister on this important date and to wish them to achieve those things for Ukraine that Ivan Mazepa [18th Century Ukrainian military leader] and Stepan Bandera [post-World War II insurgent leader in western Ukraine] failed to achieve.

Now a question for Yeltsin: Russia has signed the Helsinki Accords. Do you feel strong enough to cool the Russian Supreme Soviet's imperial ambitions and claims upon Ukrainian territories? I have in mind Crimea, Sevastopol, and...

[Korotchenya] Thank you, the question is clear.

[Yeltsin] There are certain disagreements between our branches of power. I think that the referendum, the nationwide referendum on the principles of the Constitution to be held on 11 April, will decide who is supposed to do what. The people will decide; they will have the final say.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. This will be the last question: Microphone No. 3, please

[KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent Lebedev] I have a question for the president of Ukraine. Leonid Makarovich, what changes would have to be made to the CIS Charter if Ukraine is to sign it? Or is this fundamentally impossible, no matter what provisos are inserted? I would be grateful if you would answer this question.

[Kravchuk] It is not a question of what changes might be made or not made right away. The formula that has been adopted corresponds to the present situation in the CIS, in the states of the CIS. I would like you journalists to stop brainwashing people with completely unnecessary formulas, making them think in terms of blocs and formulas.

Today I can tell you one thing quite authoritatively. If 0.7 percent of the Crimean public—and it may actually be less—have read the CIS Charter—or draft charter—that would be a lot, I would say. But ask each of these people individually, and they will all say that the CIS Charter should be signed immediately, because they have had a stereotype foisted upon them, the idea that if we sign the charter today, there will be prosperity tomorrow. Equally, some other regions of the Ukraine—where they have not read the CIS Charter either—will say that the charter must not be signed under any circumstances, because it would be ruinous.

Who has done this? Who has implanted this view, this sort of thing? Certainly not me. I think it would be better if passions were not whipped up in this way. Instead we should examine those questions that are most acute at the moment. As far as I am concerned, the most acute question at the moment is the economic situation in Ukraine and the other states. Not for nothing have we stressed this in the general declaration, stressed that the CIS is working and that it needs to be improved. This is the most important issue.

If today—I would like Crimean newspapers and others to know—if I were sure today, I will be as frank with you as I can, that having signed the regulations or a decision on regulations, I would change tomorrow's situation, not just tomorrow's but the day after tomorrow and so on and so forth; I would do anything at all.

But I would like to say this to you because I do not want us to live in a world of illusions and to bury yet another illusion, because in six months or three months you would ask me: Have you signed it? Yes, we have. Why is it not working then? Let's carry on signing other things. Problems ought to be resolved. We have signed a lot of documents and agreements. Now we have to make decisions. Time will come for Ukraine to find its own place. It determined its position today. The president, the Supreme Soviet, and the people of Ukraine together will determine Ukraine's future place.

One must not pressure people today. Trust me, you throw them from the left to the right, from the right to the left, from the top to the bottom and from the bottom to the top. They do not know anymore who they should listen to. They think that they adopted a long time ago—I am sorry I am taking so long, but since this question was asked by the Crimeans I would like to say this—some time ago we were promised Communism, but the time has come and we no longer have Communism. Why don't we? The same thing happens every time we sign something or agree to something, and people do not know who they should listen to anymore. They live in a world of illusions, but the people must live in a world of real relations and must deal with things that have today taken shape. Economic problems have evolved today. They must be solved.

[Korotchenya] Thank you to everyone for interesting questions and no less interesting replies. Until we meet again.

Yeltsin on Charter Signing

LD2201163493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1548 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Minsk, 22 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The issue of the CIS Charter was one of the most complex at the Minsk meeting, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said during the news conference. In his words, a solution to this issue was found after "fairly intense discussion." Boris Yeltsin said that seven heads of Commonwealth states signed the decision on the CIS Charter in the form in which it had been prepared. Boris Yeltsin continued that agreement on signing a general declaration on the charter was reached, bearing in mind the positions of certain heads of state. The important thing in this declaration, the Russian president emphasized, is that "an opportunity to sign the charter remains open at any time to any head of state."

Russia's Chernomyrdin Gives Praise

LD2201185893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1526 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Statement by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at news conference following conclusion of CIS heads of state summit in Minsk—live]

[Text] A conference of heads of state of the Commonwealth countries has been held. As you have just been told, 14 documents at the head of government level were examined, and four documents which had been presented to the heads of state were signed. Practically all the documents that were prepared were signed by everyone, with a few exceptions. There are questions and comments, but further work on them has been asked for. I believe that documents such as the one on mutual provision and defense of interstate secrets, on the Ostankino interstate television and radio company, on joint activity regarding humanitarian aid, on dividing the rolling stock of the former Railroad Ministry of the former Soviet Union—these issues are connected in practical terms with the economic activity of all our states.

Perhaps I can only mention a small part of it, but what we examined today is precisely the issue that will help in the future to smooth out the mechanism for the work of our enterprises on an enterprise level. That is how we are organizing this work. I believe that the meeting took place on a high level, all documents and issues which we placed before ourselves were examined professionally, at a high level of professionalism, and I believe that I am taking part in this kind of work for the first time, at a conference of this type. I believe that this work will be continued. The next sitting has been fixed to be held in the first half of March in Moscow. A range of issues which we need to examine has been prepared, and I am convinced that today, if we work like this—and I believe that we will be working exactly like this—it should work for us.

Today more than ever, the thesis that new relations, in the economic sphere, on an economic basis—today we cannot only build and develop, but we should develop these relations—is being confirmed, and I am a firm supporter that there always will be results.

Russia's Shokhin on Success

LD2201165893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1411 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Interview with Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin, first deputy prime minister, by correspondent Shchelkunova; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shchelkunova] I offer for your attention an interview with Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin, Russian first deputy prime minister.

[Shokhin] Personally, I see the results of this conference of heads of states and governments as very successful. If we take the economic part of today's meeting, we were able to settle questions which have been under discussion for many months, in particular the issue of an interstate bank. Two difficult questions which remained, specifically the question on the accounting unit for this bank and the question of voting procedure, were shaken out today into a unified compromise formula, and the relevant documents, the agreement on setting up the bank and the bank charter, are to be signed. That is a significant success.

As far as the second important issue is concerned, the issue of the CIS charter, as far as I know no document has yet been signed, but there are prospects for signing a memorandum or declaration or protocol on procedures for joining the CIS charter.

As I had assumed, the majority of heads of state supported a soft mechanism for joining the charter, including parliamentary consultation on the charter ratification procedure. That means that the charter has today been opened for joining, and the procedure will take at worst about a year, as was envisaged in the draft documents. This allows even states such as Ukraine, and to a certain extent Turkmenistan, which were concerned about linking themselves with the more rigid structures within the Commonwealth framework, calmly to debate all the pluses and minuses of a more formulaic participation in the Commonwealth, and make a decision this year. That is, as was assumed, Russian official personages in particular were expressing the point of view that a formula of this kind will not allow journalists to count on a sensation.

[Unidentified speaker] Let's hope so.

[Shchelkunova] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, tell me...we represent the Ostankino company; was the fate of this company decided today?

[Shokhin] I don't think any questions on the documents for the Ostankino television and radio company were discussed today. It's too long... we've discussed these documents many times, they've been polished up, so

today it was all... [changes thought] You could say it went through to universal applause.

[Shchelkunova] So, as you heard, Ostankino will remain an interstate or international television and radio company. What this will mean in practice we will see by the changes on our television screens or hear by the changes in radio programs.

Belarus' Shushkevich Pleased

LD2201200493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1522 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Statement by Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich at news conference following conclusion of CIS heads of state summit in Minsk—live]

[Text] Esteemed journalists, esteemed ladies and gentlemen: There have been many discussions. There were many skeptical judgments before the beginning of this meeting. As you know, the meeting was postponed twice, and among you journalists there has been a lot of talk to the effect that the CIS is probably already on its last legs. I want to categorically disappoint you and all who thought that way, since in today's session the heads of states were in agreement as never before.

I am sure that the heads of governments understood one another, understood the way of doing things. We perfected our style of work. The meeting was businesslike. Twenty-five questions were considered—25 questions. Actually, anyone who does a straightforward count will end up with 30, since 15 questions were considered by the heads of governments, and 15 by the heads of state, but five of them were considered jointly. To my great delight, decisions were adopted on all questions. Positive decisions were adopted on virtually all questions, and ways were found to solve those questions that require further work and further discussion.

A decision was made to institute an interstate bank. A formula was found for making decisions inside the interstate bank. A decision was adopted on regulating the interstate securities market. A decision was made on a draft CIS Charter, and questions were solved concerning approaches to... [changes thought] questions about a consultative economic working commission, since a whole series of ideas emerge from the decision that was approved on the adoption of a charter.

I am following the order of the agenda—at the Council of Heads of State, questions were considered relating to the statute on the Council of Defense Ministers of the heads of Commonwealth states, and on the convention on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters. A report was heard on the sociopolitical situation in the Republic of Tajikistan. Consideration was given to the question of measures to stabilize the situation in the border area of the Republic of Tajikistan with Afghanistan.

The question of date and place for the next session of the Council of Heads of State was resolved, and I can tell you now that our next meeting will be held on 30 April in the Armenian capital. We have been invited there by Armenian President Levon Akopovich Ter-Petrosyan, so our next session will be in Yerevan. Prior to that Heads of Government session will take place in Moscow on 12 March.

Questions were resolved concerning the introduction of amendments into the agreements on strategic forces. Among the questions included under the any other business section were questions concerning the problems of the CIS joint armed forces. We adopted decisions on preparations for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 and discussed questions concerning the creation of basic principles for a CIS interstate court. We also discussed the question of a draft declaration on international obligations in the sphere of human rights and basic freedoms.

Personally, I consider that the questions that were resolved most effectively included those concerning our economic interaction and those concerning the clear establishment of positions in the military-political sphere. I think that the conference was successful, and I am glad that it was held in Minsk. I believe we will continue to develop the ideas of the Commonwealth and we will determine its form and place.

Kozyrev, Stankevich, Grachev Comment

MK2301100193 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 2

[Comments by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Stankevich, and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to Aleksandr Nadzharov: "Is the CIS Held Together by Optimism?"]

[Text] KURANTY'S special correspondent talks with Minsk meeting participants:

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev:

It is now possibly to talk about the viability of the Commonwealth and the desire of all CIS states to strengthen it. It is a different matter that each one stresses its own interests, on border questions or economic issues, for example. The CIS is actively viable, and this quality is strengthening all the time. As for the degree of flexibility of forms of cooperation, they can be very diverse. The states of our Commonwealth definitely have the right to choose. Those who want to will accede to the Charter. It is also open for signature.

Stanislav Stankevich, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet:

At the preliminary meetings it proved possible to reach agreement on virtually everything. I expect the level of understanding of problems of intrastate interests to rise.

The best way to solve these problems is germane cooperation within the framework of the CIS. This is in keeping with our common strategic interests. But we sometimes succumb to the passions of the moment. For example, some people in our republic think that it would be a good thing to introduce a transit transport tax in Belarus. But when all the consequences were calculated it proved to be a bad idea.

Now to the subject of nuclear weapons. As far as Belarus is concerned, first, we favor true nuclear-free status. Second, we realize that this cannot be done instantaneously. Third, we realize that the nuclear weapons on our territory belong to Russia and are under Russian subordination. We want agreement on all these questions not with some abstract military structures, but with Russia. In the final analysis we will be realists. After all, the nuclear troops on our territory are Russian troops. They are subordinate to Russia, and I think that to think otherwise would mean creating a mass of unnecessary difficulties. It is therefore very difficult to separate strategic nuclear troops from the rest, and it is essential for them to remain in a common system. We would like this to be the case.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev:

We initialed the main points; the only problems remaining for Russia relate to space reconnaissance. I consider that this must be part of the CIS, since the satellites and their launches are Russian. Therefore anyone wishing to participate must sign a bilateral agreement.

We rejected the draft nuclear agreements proposed to us, because of the Ukrainian stance of minimum reductions in the composition of the strategic forces. Also Kazakhstan considers that, on the contrary, they must be expanded to the maximum, including strategic reconnaissance. There is a desire to get rid of all strategic forces with the exception of the nuclear forces. For all these reasons we have not yet signed the agreement on nuclear forces, but I think this will happen soon, after further work is done on it. It will evidently include literally a couple of points: agreement that at bilateral talks Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan will determine the composition of the common strategic forces that they want included in the CIS, and, second, a recommendation that the heads of state sign this agreement at the next conference.

Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine Leaders Comment

LD2301195093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The heads of CIS states on returning from Minsk are on the whole happy that it has proved possible to make progress in economic accords. Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich believes that in terms of content, the Minsk conference of CIS heads of state and government was the most profound and acute. He considers the decision adopted on an interstate bank of key importance for the interaction of the CIS countries' economies.

Moldova's stance remained unchanged at the meeting. The republic's delegation discussed only economic problems and showed no interest in political or military issues, Moldovan President Snegur stated today on his arrival from Minsk.

The members of the CIS realized that the main thing is to resolve economic problems, Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk stated at Kiev airport on his return from Minsk on Friday evening. He believes that an important result of the meeting is also the fact that it has proved possible to agree the acute problem of the CIS Charter. The president said that the Commonwealth, as a structure, can and should function. He believes that the CIS should improve itself economically and politically.

Ukraine Prime Minister Kuchma cited as the main outcome of the meeting the realization that it is necessary to restore the political foundation for economic cooperation, and from that point on the enterpreneurs and managers of enterprises will do everything themselves.

Kazakhstan Prime Minister on Outcome

OW2501110893 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1955 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Report on interview with Kazakh Prime Minister S.A. Tereshchenko by A. Zhuk in Minsk; date not given—from the "Utro" program]

[Text] A notable event in the past week was the meeting in Minsk between the heads of state and government of the Commonwealth. Aleksey Zhuk, our correspondent in Minsk, comments on the main results of that meeting.

[Begin recording] [Zhuk] The meeting has ended, and without any great surprises. As we advised in earlier news bulletins, the presidents and prime ministers came to Minsk with their own clearly defined positions, and this is why it was no surprise that the CIS Charter was signed by the heads of only seven states. The Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan did not sign it. Incidentally, the joint declaration on the Charter was signed by all the leaders. At a news conference immediately following the meeting, it was announced that the Commonwealth Charter was open for signature by other states. On the whole, the participants examined all the documents included on the meeting's agenda.

[Tereshchenko] I think that those people who prophesied the CIS' disintegration were mistaken, and this was mentioned at the meeting of the heads of state and government today. The documents intended for examination by heads of governments have all been worked through and signed. Of course, the main issue is the

Charter, and the heads of state have just met to finalize work on it. Nevertheless, the draft Charter and the decision on it allows all states that are not ready to sign it today for various political reasons to join at a later date. They most likely will reach agreement with their parliaments and sign it in a month or two. I think that during 1992 everyone came to understand that we were committed to closely cooperating with each other in mutually advantageous ways.

[Zhuk] So, there is talk about the integration of economies?

[Tereshchenko] Yes, because now everyone is starting to think about the best way to build automobile plants. Why? I know of a good leather-processing plant in Gatovo in Belarus equipped with Italian machinery. You have the plant, we have the raw materials, so let's get together and produce some good ladies boots.

[Zhuk] Ladies boots, yes, I think it is clear to CIS viewers.

[Tereshchenko] There are many other examples. If each one builds his own plant, what good is that? We talk about antimonopoly activities. Well, right, there should be competition, but one has to achieve this goal at some point down the road. Right now, it is only sensible to utilize the capabilities we currently possess. This is why I think that coordination applies here. Each one of us is moving toward the world market and, by lowering prices, we have begun to sell our own raw materials and products. In turn, we have Belarus competing against Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan against Russia...

[Zhuk, interrupting] Do not tell me that Belarus is...

[Tereshchenko, interrupting] No, no, this has come about unintentionally—simply unintentionally. It is because people do not know that things are not done this way in the world. Internationally speaking, there are quotas, and agreements are reached on the quantity of raw materials to be delivered. We experienced this, for example, when a large quantity of (?uranium) was dumped on the market; there was a tenpin [as heard] process launched against us. It took a long time to prove that we were not to blame for this. There are many other examples, too. This is where there should be coordination. I have already told you about the footwear and machine building [as heard], and many examples can be given where we need to come to an agreement and not, as some people understand it, to give commands. No, if its profitable, then produce it.

[Zhuk] The next meeting of CIS leaders is set for April in Yerevan. It will be preceded by a Moscow meeting of the Commonwealth's heads of government. [end recording]

Meeting in Minsk Ends; Accord on 'All' Documents

LD2201145493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1349 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By the TASS-BELINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 22 Jan—The meeting of the heads of government of the CIS countries has ended. The prime ministers examined all the issues on the agenda. Accord has been reached on all the draft documents, and they were signed.

The issue of the so-called special [liternyye] flights was additionally examined. A positive decision was taken on it as well.

On the initiative of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, the participants in the conference agreed to hold two more meetings at the level of the heads of government or their deputies in the near future to discuss issues relating to the gas and oil extracting complex and to combating crime.

Results of Morning Sessions

LD2201151893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS special correspondents Andrey Naryshkin and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Minsk Jan 22 TASS—A joint meeting of the CIS Council of State Heads and the CIS Council of Government Heads discussed today the creation of an interstate bank, regulation of the interstate securities market, and the Commonwealth rules.

Press secretary of the CIS working group Yevgeny Gorelik told a briefing that the discussion of rules revealed two groups of states—one ready to sign the rules today but with some reservations and the other, to include Moldova, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, not ready for this step.

As an alternative, the meeting participants decided to prepare a special document to define the attitudes of the leaders toward the Commonwealth itself, to state positive and negative aspects of the CIS and to establish ways to upgrade its mechanisms. Foreign ministers and experts have begun work on the document.

It is expected signatures of all the CIS heads of state will be put under the document or the memorandum (the final name has not been decided on) today. This, however, does not exclude the possibility that the statute will be signed by states prepared for closer cooperation. True, the draft statute provides for a year-long ratification procedure.

Gorelik noted that all states have remarks about the statute text, and that Leonid Kravchuk even brought a text of an alternative charter, though no one could read it as yet.

It took two and a half minutes for the heads of state to discuss regulations of the interstate securities market. A document to provide for the free movement of vouchers, shares, and other securities in all Commonwealth states is practically ready for signing.

As for the issue of establishing an interstate bank prepared by government heads in the morning, the presidents put forward a proposal to give Russia 50 percent of the vote in the bank council in accordance with its share in the start-up capital, and to require a two-thirds majority in decision-making. The payment unit will be "the ruble - the currency of the Russian Federation."

Discussing the agenda, the leaders transferred the deliberations on "the declaration on international obligations in the sphere of human rights and fundamental freedoms" in the agenda item "miscellaneous" on the insistent plea of Uzbek President Islam Karimov. The item also will include an issue of the interstate court excluded yesterday from the agenda by foreign ministers. This is being done at the request of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Describing the ngeneral atmosphere at the meeting, Gorelik said that the conversation is very interesting and substantial. There are no confrontations or tough disputes on the above-mentioned items of the agenda. The presidents' exchange of opinion is frank.

After a break the heads of state chaired by Stanislav Shushkevich continued the meeting behind closed doors with a discussion of the Tajik situation.

Nuclear Forces Issue Remains Open

LD2201210393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1947 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS military writer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Minsk January 22 TASS—Commonwealth state heads signed an agreement on the introduction of changes in agreements on strategic forces at today's summit in Minsk.

Commenting on the document content, First Deputy Ukrainian Defence Minister Colonel-General Ivan Bizhan told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview this is the matter of specification of Article I of the Agreement on Composition of the Strategic Forces signed in Minsk on December 30, 1991.

The article too broadly interpreted the notion of "strategic forces". From now on, on decision of state heads, the forces will include only military units and facilities which are armed or store nuclear weapons, as well as support units.

Nevertheless, the most intricate issue of national belonging [ownership] of the strategic forces remains open after the Minsk summit. Bizhan said there are no grounds for recognizing the strategic nuclear forces stationed on Ukrainian territory as property of Russia.

"The Lisbon Protocol says all states-members of the Commonwealth, on whose territory nuclear arms are stationed, shall become equal successors of the treaty on reduction of strategic offensive weapons," stressed the Ukrainian military leader.

As is known, the Russian side has a different point of view. It has rather weighty reasons to prove all nuclear weapons left after the disintegration of the Soviet Union must be recognized property of Russia as the side which took basic obligations on the fulfillment of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on strategic offensive weapons.

The Republic of Belarus agrees with this stand. "We consider nuclear troops on territory of our republic to be troops of the Russian Federation and solve the issues of their withdrawal by Russia on the basis of bilateral agreements," Belarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich told a news conference on the results of the Minsk summit today.

According to the estimation of Russian Defence Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, the Kazakh stand on the issue is close to the Belarusian one. In his words, Kazakh Defence Minister Colonel- General Sagadat Nurmagambetov has offered Grachev "to consider on bilateral basis the procedure of elimination of nuclear arms stationed on Kazakh territory, and the issue will soon be settled".

Thus, there are two different approaches to the national belonging of strategic nuclear forces in the Commonwealth "nuclear club" today, and Ukraine is in the minority in this situation. Future will show whether this circumstance will lead to the rapprochement of the sides' stands on the basis of a reasonable compromise.

Seven States Sign Charter

LD2201212293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Minsk January 22 TASS—Heads of seven CIS states signed today, although with some reservations, the CIS Charter, discussions on whose content lasted for the recent few months. Moldova, Turkmenistan and Ukraine appeared to be unprepared for this step.

Explaining the Kiev stand, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told the final news conference "the adopted wording corresponds to the current situation in the Commonwealth". However, the economic situation is now the most important for Ukraine. He said the time will come for Ukraine to determine its stand on the issue.

The Ukrainian leader also said the Commonwealth as a structure has potential to upgrade its work in all spheres—both in political and economic.

The meeting of the state heads council reached an agreement to sign a common statement on the charter. In the opinion of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the most important thing about the document is that the charter is declared open for signing by any state head any time.

The meeting focused on a set of economic issues. In particular, it reached an agreement on creation of an

inter-state bank and principles of its work. Government heads considered 14 economic issues and prepared four issues for discussion together with state heads. All of them were signed, with the exception of ones sent back for improvement. In the opinion of Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, the meeting, held at a high professional level, was a success.

As for political aspects of the meeting, one should note the discussion of the Tajik situation, which resulted in a decision to close the Tajik-Afghan border that is, in the words of Uzbek President Islam Karimov, the gates for penetration of arms and drugs on CIS territory. Five states, which signed the agreement on collective security, decided to send a battalion each to reinforce the border.

At the same time, state heads voiced an opinion Tajikistan and its new leaders, after stabilizing the situation in the Republic, must be able to ensure the inviolability of borders by themselves.

Commenting on correspondents' request the results of the first year of CIS existence, Boris Yeltsin said the Commonwealth "underwent normal and natural for young, newly-established states processes of self-awareness in the world". The Commonwealth was living, growing experienced and has done much, said the Russian leader.

He stressed a "chaotic disintegration" of the nuclear state was prevented. Understanding of the need to preserve the whole set of relations, especially under conditions of an economic crisis, has been reached. "We understood we cannot live without each other," noted the Russian leader.

In the opinion of head of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich, results of the CIS existence are evident. "State and government heads have never before met each other with such respect and understanding of each other's dignity. This is the main result of the Commonwealth," he said.

Belarusian, Uzbek Leaders on Bilateral Ties, CIS

WS2201134093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The CIS is necessary, Uzbek President I. Karimov told an RIA correspondent. Wise politicians should realize that only together can we survive the current crisis. At the same time, I am against the restoration of the former Soviet Union in any form, including a confederation. The cooperation between Uzbekistan and Belarus can become a basis on which the cooperation of all the CIS countries will be strengthened, the Uzbek leader said.

S. Shushkevich, Belarusian Supreme Soviet chairman, endorsed this point of view, saying that the unity of the countries can be ensured by the willingness of those countries themselves and not by a Big Brother's, and expressed his hope that Belarus and Uzbekistan would involve other CIS countries into the process of integration. It should be noted that the two countries signed a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations.

Belarus, Kyrgyzstan Sign Treaty on Interstate Relations

LD2201152993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1342 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By TASS-BELINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 22 Jan—"Our relations with the Republic of Belarus in the economic, political, humanitarian, and other spheres may be described as friendly and steady. We have always found mutual understanding. May God help us that all the other partners in the Commonwealth carry out their obligations in the same way as Belarus does," Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev said today at a ceremony after signing a treaty on the fundamentals of interstate relations between Belarus and his country.

Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich stressed that both strong economic and cultural links have been formed between the two republics. He cited the opening of the Center of Slavonic Culture in Bishkek as an example and noted that "a high level of culture is a strong barrier against the whipping up of interethnic enmity."

Black Sea Fleet Officers Meet To Discuss Agreements

Alleged Ukraine Violations

LD2101232893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The discussion of several instances of the violation by the Ukrainian side of the moratorium on unilateral transferral of sites and units belonging of the Black Sea Fleet, which was agreed upon in the Yalta and Dagomys agreements, has been the focus of attention at the session of the Coordination Council of the Officers' Assemblies of the Black Sea Fleet. The session started its work in Sevastopol on 21 January.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told at the headquarters that the officers will also discuss the issue of the status of the Coordination Council. According to the data of the Black Sea representatives, in the first weeks of the new year the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense has become more active in seizing [zakhvat] the infrastructure and making units of the fleet swear the oath of allegiance. For example, early in January 1993 there were attempts to transfer to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense the (medical?) brigade of the coast guards, some units of the [word indistinct] fleet, the 110th out-patient clinic, and the main hospital of the Black Sea Fleet.

According to the report made at the headquarters of the Izmail garrison, the representatives of the Ukrainian Navy who visited it behaved in an extremely tactless way

and made provocative statements, which led to further escalation of tension. Thus, for example, speaking to the officers and warrant officers at the military base in Izmail, Capt. 1st rank Yevgeniy Lopakov, an employee of the Ukrainian Navy, declared that the commander of the Black Sea Fleet ought to move to Novorossiysk and the Ukrainian Navy was not acting in accordance with the Dagomys agreement because it betrayed the interests of the Ukraine.

Single Fleet Called For

LD2101223493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2158 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow 22 Jan (TASS)—A meeting of officers of the Black Sea Fleet, which ended in Sevastopol on Thursday, completed with the adoption of a resolution on the situation in the fleet. "We are frankly disappointed with the results of a regular meeting at the top level held in Moscow on 15 January, as negotiations were again postponed for an indefinite period, while officers of the Black Sea Fleet were pinning great hopes on the Russian and Ukrainian presidents signing documents on the fleet's status," the resolution states.

"The incomplete work on the Yalta and Dagomys agreements is aggravating the uneasy situation in the fleet," the document says. Officers of the Black Sea Fleet are especially indignant at the continuing activities of the Ukrainian Navy, which is in contravention of these agreements.

The officers noted that the solution of economic issues, the material and technological provision of the fleet and financial support of servicemen is being unjustifiably delayed, which causes a negative response in a number of naval units.

The officers of the Black Sea Fleet have appealed to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine to consider as soon as possible the problem of preserving the single Black Sea Fleet, granting the city of Sevastopol a status of being its main naval base, and provide bilateral financing of the Black Sea Fleet by Russia and Ukraine. To enhance the fleet's combat capacity, officers suggest resuming deliveries of material, and technical and other property for the needs of the fleet.

During the 15 Jan Moscow meeting, both the Russian and Ukrainian presidents noted the slowing down of the negotiating process on the Black Sea Fleet, as a result of which a packet of documents envisaged by the Yalta Agreement had not been prepared in due time. The presidents agreed to give the corresponding state delegations an opportunity to complete the elaboration of documents on the implementation of the Yalta accords on the Black Sea Fleet.

Threat of Ukrainian Takeover of River Fleet Viewed

LD2201155493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1426 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jan—There is an increasing threat that Ukraine will forcibly take over the headquarters and ships of the Black Sea river cutter fleet based in Ismail, where the Ukraine Navy subunits are being sent. This is contained in a report sent by the Black Sea Fleet command to Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Federation minister of defense, and members of the Russian and Ukrainian leadership.

The document says that there is growing tension in the military collectives. The use of strong-arm methods in solving the arguments might produce a negative reaction from the Black Sea Fleet seamen and lead to dire consequences. Vice Admiral Eduard Baltin, appointed as chief commander of the Black Sea Fleet by a decision of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine on 15 January, is still in Moscow. In conversation with ITAR-TASS correspondents he has noted that he had nothing to do with this report. In the words of the vice admiral, he will go to Sevastopol to assume command of the fleet only after he receives an order from the Russian Federation defense minister assigning him to the new post. Eduard Baltin hopes to arrive at the fleet on 26-27 January.

First CIS Private Clearing House Established

LD2501113393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—The first ever private clearing house on the territory of the former Soviet Union has been set up by the leaders of 28 commercial banks from 12 CIS and Baltic states at an interbank conference which took place in Yalta between January 22 and 23.

The main aim of the clearing operations is for the banks to work together in offsetting their customers' debts. In order to simplify payments, money will not cross frontiers. Cross border payments have in fact become a stumbling block for interrelated enterprises who are divided by borders which separted former Soviet Republics.

Those banks which joined the clearing house have automatic access to the 28 corresponding accounts which, according to the principle of threefold and fourfold "exchange," will help to write off debts, including of those enterprises who are not directly involved.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Jan

LD2301084593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0616 GMT 23 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 23 TASS—The January 22 CIS summit in Minsk is the central topic in today's press.

"The Minsk Meeting: The Day Of Lawmaking" is the headline under which NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) reports the summit, pointing out that "only a draft charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States was adopted due to a tough stand of Ukraine and Turkmenistan and because of numerous amendments suggested by other CIS members."

TRUD believes that the main political subject of the Minsk summit deals with the draft CIS Charter—the document which, according to the opinion of its initiators, is to breathe new life into the CIS.

"Following a keen debate and on the strength of opinions of representatives of Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan, a decision was taken to work out a new document which, analysts believe, will stipulate that all CIS countries without exception are concerned over the state of affairs in the CIS and consider it necessary to adopt a document which would regulate intra-CIS relations and would help the CIS to get out of its current state by dealing in practice primarily with economic problems," writes KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR).

Commenting on the CIS summit, PRAVDA points out the need for a reliable economic mechanism for the CIS, emphasising that the old one has been "torn to pieces," and "that all old ties have been upset while new ones stumble on the borders and laws of sovereign states." The newspaper expresses an opinion that a common rouble area may play a certain role in revitalising the CIS economy.

"I Am Alive And Well" is the headline under which SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with Abkhazian parliament chief Vladislav Ardzinba. The newspaper writes that Georgian sources recently reported that Ardzinba was ostensibly wounded during the discussion of "peaceful" and "military" options for a settlement of the Abkhazian-Georigan conflict and even died of wounds.

The Abkhazian leader described the reports as a sheer lie. Ardzinba emphasised that Abkhazia has been, is and will be a multi-ethnic republic—such is its historical destiny. "Abkhazia fights not against the Georgian people but against rabid nationalism which the Tbilisi leadership tries to instill in the present-day Georgian mentality."

Admiral Felix Gromov, commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, expresses concern over the uncertainty of the status of the Black Sea Fleet. As participant in the current talks between Russia and Ukraine on the issue, he believes that the place which the Black Sea Fleet had held had been established historically. The admiral's view is that many problems could be resolved through granting dual citizenship to the fleet navymen.

A trend towards criminal encroachments on the arms, ammunition, and life of the Russian Army servicemen is keeping on in the newly-independent Baltic countries and is notable for a brazen and aggressive character, Yuriy Voyevoda, spokesman for the Baltic Fleet Procurator's Office, said in an interview published in today's KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries a large excerpt from Anatoliy Lukyanov's book entitled "An Imaginary Coup And A Real One." The excerpt is published in the form of questions and answers. "As a citizen and former member of the Soviet leadership, I cannot but feel my responsibility for the tragedy into which our country has been drawn," the former chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet points out.

Already in the near future, the work done recently will make it possible to expect the restoration of the previous level of Russian-Indian trade which decreased almost by half in 1992, Vladimir Shibayev, Russia's first deputy minister for foreign economic relations, who is in charge of preparations for President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to India, told the newspaper TRUD.

Shibayev believes that a certain pause, which has existed in bilateral relations, is drawing to an end. The pause was an enforced one and was brought on by changes that took place in Russia and India at the beginning of the 1990s. Time was needed to try out a new system of trade-and-economic relations and to determine priorities.

The most important task now, in Shibayev's view, is to give a political impulse to the new system of trade-and-economic relations. Such an impulse is to be provided by the Russian president's visit to India.

Yeltsin, Clinton Seek Summit in 'Very Near Future'

LD2301181793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1755 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—A telephone conversation took place this evening between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton at the latter's initiative. The presidents of the two countries spoke in favor of further active dialogue and development of relations between the two countries. Bill Clinton reaffirmed his administration's determination to render all-around support to the democratic reforms in Russia, says a report of the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Questions of interaction between Russia and the United States in the international arena, especially in settling crisis situations, were discussed during the course of the conversation.

Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton agreed to instruct the foreign ministers of the two countries to meet to prepare a summit meeting in a third country in the very near future, the Russian president's press service informs.

Commentary Sees Clinton as 'Enigma'

LD2401214393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Commentary by Vitaliy Buzuyev, with recorded comments by Lyudmila Antonova of the United States and Canada Institute]

[Text] [Buzuyev] According to the U.S. Constitution, the official assumption of duties by the President is a very simple affair, despite the fact that to us the ceremony is difficult to understand and has an unfamiliar title: inauguration [inauguratsiya]. The President, taking the oath on Capitol Hill, pronounces 35 words in English, swearing that he will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States of America and will to the best of his ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. All the rest—the sumptuous celebrations and parades—are traditions dating back to 1789, when George Washington was sworn in as the first president. Since Bill Clinton is the star of the moment, let us discuss his personal qualities.

[Antonova] There are certain traits that always show up in political profiles of Clinton, be they by his supporters or critics: He is a born mediator, a master of political compromise. Not only that, but he has an inherent dislike of conflict. Obviously, it is up to the psychologists to decide whether this has anything to do with events in his life so far; there were some difficult periods in his childhood: Clinton's father was killed in a road accident three months before his birth; his attitude toward his stepfather is highly complex because his stepfather treated his mother very badly. There is a view that his strong dislike of conflict was forged by that.

[Buzuyev] The experts have been talking at length about Clinton's demeanor in an age not of the faceless mass of electors, as was the case earlier, but of reaching out to the heart of every American. As Lyudmila Antonova says:

[Antonova] This is Clinton's new behavior and style. It even has been given a special name: retail politics. Clinton waged a retail campaign in an age of wholesale politics. His new manner has been absolutely successful, as was brilliantly confirmed during the election campaign. The word now is that Clinton is creating a new presidential style, which consists of non-stop campaigning. His accessibility notwithstanding, Clinton remains largely an enigma, even to his supporters.

TV Examines Clinton Presidency

LD2501000993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Commentary by Pavel Kuznetsov; opening paragraph is introduction—from the "Itogi" program]

[Text] Last Wednesday, 20 January, the day determined by the American Constitution, the change of the presidential guard took place in Washington, in the political terminology of the United States—the inauguration, the ceremony of the new chief of the White House, Bill Clinton, taking office. Here is a commentary from Pavel Kuznetsov.

[Kuznetsov] The wits from Arkansas say that the 42d president of the United States is "Billary," that is, actually, Bill and his wife Hillary. Every joke contains its share of truth. The Clinton couple is a unique political duet. Both are graduates from Yale University and lawyers by education; clever, tough, charming, and ambitious. Both are liberals. For Americans this is when they believe that the government can make life better, not by distributing and giving commands, but by regulating with intelligence.

Without wishing it herself, Hillary, as the first lady, already has become a legislator of fashions. Nothing excessively extravagant—she wears clothes with a sporting cut, equally comfortable for the office and for everyday life—free, austere, and elegant. At last! they cried in Hollywood: After the boredom under Bush, the old soldier and puritan, lover of fishing and player of horseshoes, there will be fashionable parties in the White House with chic women in furs and diamonds.

Bill Clinton's idols are John and Robert Kennedy. On the eve of the inauguration, he visited their graves at Arlington Cemetery. In his heart he fervently believes in God and believes that even the lowest villain can ask forgiveness for his sins on his deathbed.

Clinton has an experienced team. His secretary of defense, Les Aspin, knows military politics inside out, having dealt with it for many long years in the corresponding committee in the House of Representatives. His secretary of state, Warren Christopher, at nearly 70,

is an enemy of purely strong-arm methods, preferring negotiation and compromise, but, of course, only up to a certain point.

If these contentions by American analysts are correct, then it could not be more opportune. After all, the current situation in the world is similar to the eve of the world war in 1914. Nationalism—and not only in our country—has raised its head. The West again has recalled the arc of instability, that is, well armed and unpredictable countries in the north of Africa, the Near East, Central Asia, and other regions of the former Soviet Union and its socialist camp. Washington believes that the situation is so alarming that it is time to think about an association of the countries of Eastern Europe, with Western involvement, for rendering all possible aid and, of course, for controlling the situation.

Clinton has a habit of being late for every event, both large and small. In December, for example, he forced members of the Supreme Court to wait for him a whole hour. They say he lives by some kind of internal clock of his own, which gave rise to another joke among the new officials of the White House apparatus—it's time to change the clocks from standard Washington time to standard Clinton time. That's their problem, but still, it's curious. Will Clinton become the man who has turned up at the right place at the right time?

Clinton's Foreign Policy Options Eyed

PM2501104393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 2

[Observer Aleksandr Golts article: "What Can the World Expect From Bill Clinton?"]

[Text] Bill Clinton, 42d President of the United States, assumed office 20 January. Whether we like it or not, he is a man who, for the first time in modern history, has an unprecedented ability to influence world events. On the one hand, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States is the only power that wields both economic and military might. On the other hand, it is now the U.S. President's party that has the majority in Congress. And this will undoubtedly lead to a change in the balance of power in favor of the White House incumbent.

So Clinton is a man on whose decisions a very great deal will depend—not only in America, but worldwide. The 35,000 journalists from various countries gathered in Washington to relay to the world the inauguration ceremony were a kind of modern version of Gogol's 100,000 messengers [reference to Khlestakov's boasting in "The Government Inspector" that thousands of messengers were sent to bring him the news of his new posting], which indicates the general attention that is paid to a new U.S. President.

Both during the election campaign and when assuming office, Clinton has been very definite in formulating his approach to how to deal with other countries. And this approach is based primarily on the idea of safeguarding America's economic interests, winning new markets for it, and improving the competitiveness of U.S. goods. And this, especially in conjunction with the proposed "cautious" reduction in defense spending and the U.S. military presence abroad, could not fail to worry both the U.S. and the foreign establishment.

As for the closest U.S. allies, such as the West European countries and Japan, they realize that they are at the same time the United States' main economic competitors. The balance of interests with Washington was determined by the latter's readiness to bear a considerable proportion of the burden of safeguarding these states' security. Which in turn often forced them to backtrack in solving economic conflicts. Now Clinton's stated position—if implemented—threatens to upset this balance of interests. As a result America could become a more aggressive economic competitor and a less effective military-political partner. Which could in turn lead to a considerable cooling in relations with the Western countries. This cooling could intensify if Clinton demands even greater economic concessions from the allies in return for the United States' continuing to defend them, but on a limited scale. America, as the new president put it, "should not bear the burden of peace alone."

As for ruling circles in the United States itself, they are more worried about the fact that, by focusing on the economy, the new administration risks losing its role as the world's political leader. A leader prepared, if necessary, to use force to protect perceived U.S. interests. A desire to forestall this was, in my view, the reason for Bush's unexpected foreign policy activeness in the last weeks of his presidency. The "humanitarian" occupation of Somalia (which, incidentally, has not been overly effective and was probably insufficiently thought out) and the strikes against Iraq (the intensity of which was clearly in excess of the nature of the threat) all seem to have had a domestic policy purpose.

The new President, whether he likes it or not, has had to start tackling the most complex world crises from the word go, thereby demonstrating America's leadership. And Clinton no longer has any room for maneuver. After all, he will have to show that he is a strong President. The gamble on U.S. might, and on the determining U.S. role in settling any conflict in the world, which were stated in the very first days of the presidency, should be defining points in the future as well. So, clearly, continuity in this area will be maintained. And Washington will continue to intervene where it intends to intervene.

The same desire to maintain continuity—this time in relations with Russia—may explain Bush's real sprint to sign the START II Treaty. This treaty, for all its importance from the military-strategic standpoint, will, apart from anything else, become a link which will bind Moscow and Washington for decades and "doom" them to close cooperation. And this is very important. But I doubt that it will be enough to continue partnership relations.

Washington has witnessed not only a change of president, but a change of generations, and this fact may downgrade our country's ranking on the list of U.S. foreign policy priorities. The point is that politicians of Bush's generation were veterans of the "cold war." They honestly spent their lives opposing the Soviet Union. And when the state whose policy they saw as the main threat disappeared, they were inclined to view what happened as a personal victory. And, naturally, they felt a responsibility for the way things are going in postcommunist Russia. It was from them that it might have been expected that the United States would show willingness to shift its position, make way slightly for Russia in the high-tech market, take a softer stance on the question of our debt repayment, and provide government guarantees for investment in the Russian economy. In short, they would understand everything that our diplomats call the new agenda in relations with the West.

And although the existence of a stable, democratic, and friendly Russia continues to be an important element in U.S. security, I am not sure that Clinton fully realizes this. In the event of the administration nonetheless focusing primarily on economic problems, it might view any assistance to Moscow as some kind of burden—with all the consequences this implies. For the time being, Clinton is stating that he wants to do "everything possible to help Yeltsin and Russian reform" and that the United States realizes "how much depends on the political situation in Russia." I think that we will learn quite soon what this "everything possible" means in practice. Most analysts agree that Clinton will immediately start implementing his own policy.

Clinton Seen 'Harassed' on Policy Toward Yugoslavia

MK2201163093 Moscow NEVAZISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 4

[Vladimir Kozlovskiy report: "Crises Inherited by Clinton. Among Them, in Addition to Iraq, Problems of Haiti, Somalia, and Former Yugoslavia"]

[Excerpts] New York—The regime last changed in Washington 12 years ago when Democrat Jimmy Carter was replaced by Republican Ronald Reagan. The new president did not inherit a single foreign- policy crisis that required immediate attention. Reagan was able wholly to devote the first few months of his administration to domestic affairs. Bill Clinton cannot even dream of that luxury inasmuch as he has already been beset by several global international problems at once. [passage omitted]

It is on the question of the former Yugoslavia that Clinton will be harassed from all quarters: Virtually every day brings fresh demands for intervention in the conflict there on Bosnia's side. In the middle of the month THE NEW YORK TIMES, followed by THE WASHINGTON POST, summarized a report that had come into their hands which U.S. expert Thomas Brennan submitted to the U.S. Agency for International Development back on 7 December with the conclusion that "immediate military intervention is needed to stop the genocide in Bosnia and Hercegovina." To be specific Brennan called for the U.S. Air Force to be used to knock out Serbian artillery positions and support the ground units that European countries and Turkey should, according to his plan, send there.

On Friday THE WASHINGTON POST ran an article headlined "Run the Blockade on Sarajevo!" signed by two surprise coauthors—former CIA director William Colby and Jeremy Stone, president of the left-wing liberal Federation of U.S. Scientists—who said that if the West does not rescue what is left of Bosnia, the Serbs will get their hands on Kosovo. "The inability to call to order the Serbs, who are committing such blatant war crimes, is demoralizing the West," the authors of the article state. Their calls for people to stand up for the Bosnians echo literally hundreds of articles published in the U.S. press over the last few months.

Judging by the statements made by Clinton and his Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the next administration will be more inclined than Bush to take some resolute steps in the former Yugoslavia. Christopher remarked at the Senate hearings when his appointment was being considered that Clinton advocates tough measures to force the Serbs to comply with the UN no-fly zone over Bosnia and Hercegovina. "Europe and the international community as a whole must exert real pressure, both economic and military, to ensure that the Serbian leadership stops its barbaric policy of killing, rape, and 'ethnic cleansing'," Christopher remarked, although, judging by how readily Clinton has been breaking his election promises over the last few days, it is pointless to even guess how he will behave in the Yugoslav fracas.

On Sunday, ABC's Sam Donaldson reminded Christopher that, as a candidate, Clinton criticized Bush for his reluctance to help Bosnia and called for the lifting of the embargo on arms shipments there and for air raids to ensure that food convoys can reach Sarajevo. Christopher's only response was to promise that the new administration would "consider" all the options and act "according to the circumstances."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Holds 22 Jan Briefing

OW2201163493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt is coming to Moscow on an official visit from February 4-7, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry (MFA) Press and Information Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy announced at a briefing in Moscow on Friday.

Mr. Bildt is expected to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and some Russian government officials. The Swedish premier's itinerary in Russia also includes visits to St. Petersburg and Novgorod.

In response to a DP [Diplomatic Panorama] question, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said Russia is closely following the first public statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton and other members of the new U.S. Administration. According to the Russian diplomat, these statements are "oriented at promoting cooperation between Russia and the U.S."

In the words of Mr. Yastrzhembskiy, the political principles adhered to by the new U.S. Administration resemble those to which Russia aspires. Essentially, they are aimed at insuring the countries' economic stability and prosperity, gradual cuts to a reasonable limit in the two countries' military potentials, as well as further confirmation of the principles of democracy and market economy.

The Russian MFA official maintains there is a tangible basis for the development of true partnership between the Russian Federation and the U.S.

In this regard, he referred to the messages President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev sent to President Bill Clinton and State Secretary Warren Christopher. Russia's economic progress "will become an essential component in the development of the international economy."

In touching on the problems of Russian-Georgian relations, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy observed that "Tbilisi has just made an encouraging move, when it resolved to contribute to the delivery of Russian humanitarian supplies to the civilian population in Tkvarcheli."

As regards possibilities for a meeting between the leaders of the two countries, Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze, the Russian diplomat said "it is premature to discuss the date of their meeting now," indicating that much will depend on the results of the current round of the Russian-Georgian talks which opened in Tbilisi today. "This may either bring the date of the summit closer or move it further into the future," he said.

Commenting on the recent statement by Sergey Glazyev, Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, who alleged that Russia has lost $16 Bn [billion] by joining U.N. sanctions against Iraq, Libya and Yugoslavia, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy replied that, in his opinion, this figure is apparently inaccurate and too high. "One cannot only see the benefits that have been forfeited without seeing the benefits that have been gained," he said. To substantiate his point, he referred to the instance when the Persian Gulf countries gave Russia a credit amounting to $2 Bn.

Sergey Yastrzhembskiy characterized the Russian Supreme Soviet resolution to postpone the ratification of the Russian-Hungarian friendship agreement since its text contains an amendment denouncing the events of 1956, as "sad and deplorable." This fact "amply characterizes the political profile of some of the deputies in the Russian parliament," he said, expressing hope that it will not affect Russian-Hungarian relations in the future.

Favors Clinton's Foreign Policy

LD2201182293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vyacheslav Katyayev and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—Speeches by the members of the new United States Administration confirm conclusions drawn by us during the first contacts with President Bill Clinton and his team: The present government of the United States intends to expand cooperation between Russia and the U.S. along all lines, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

According to Yastrzhembskiy, the principles of the U.S. foreign policy formulated by members of the new American Administration and the president himself are consonant with the tasks Russia is facing: The consolidation of its economic security, the curbing of military arsenals and their adaptation to new external conditions and the consolidation of democratic principles and a market economy at home and across the former Soviet Union. This creates a good basis for the establishment of truly partner relations with the United States of America, the Russian spokesman said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes the new U.S. Administration's commitment to the policy of backing reforms in the Russian Federation. Russia's economic revival may become a substantial component in pulling the world economy out of recession and in stimulating its long-time progressive development, the spokesman stressed.

It is important that the U.S. president and his closest associates attach great importance to the military-political component of Russo-American relations. The U.S. Administration's intention to secure the ratification and practical realisation of the START-2 Treaty and render assistance to Russia in such priority areas as dismantling arms, converting the defence sector to peaceful uses, and building housing for the military lays the foundation for strategic partnership also in the military-political area, the Russian spokesman said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry fully supports the policy of enhancing the part of collective actions on the international arena, the importance of "quiet diplomacy", and the need for preventive measures in settling key international and regional disputes, a policy indicated by the U.S. President and the U.S. Secretary of State.

"We proceed from the fact that Russia and the United States cannot but travel together along the path of partnership and concerted actions, with due account, of course, of each country's national interests."

Summit Date With Clinton Not Set

OW2201164693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A final date for a meeting between Russian and U.S. Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton has not been set yet, but it has been agreed in principle to hold it in a third country within a tight deadline, the Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, told IF [INTERFAX].

The diplomat said that that approach to a future Russian-U.S. summit met the interests of both sides, which have said more than once that they are not going to have long pauses in bilateral relations.

Views UN Security Council Stance on Iraq

LD2201155193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vyacheslav Katyayev and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—The recent discussion of Iraq's fulfillment of obligations in pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council was carried out in a positive key [as received], according to the Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy.

Yastrzhembskiy was speaking at the briefing here today. According to the Russian spokesman, Russia's position regarding the necessity for further concerted efforts by the world community against Iraq met with approval of participants in the Security Council consultative meeting on Tuesday. Speakers stressed the importance of Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations to avoid new critical situations and expressed hope that Iraq would end its policy of confrontation with the Security Council.

The question was considered taking into account the official statement made by the Iraqi authorities on the morning of January 19 concerning the resumption of flights of aircraft carrying specialists of the U.N. Commission in compliance with the earlier procedure and the ceasefire in the no-fly zones in the north and south of Iraq.

Views Yeltsin's Visit to India

LD2201185293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vyacheslav Katyayev and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—India with which Russia has traditionally maintained comprehensive friendly relations, continues to occupy a significant place in the Russia's foreign policy, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today. "This is why we count on the success of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to India," he said.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry official, this visit will also show that there is no pro-Western orientation in Russia's foreign policy and its two-headed eagle looks not only westward but also eastward. Many recent foreign trips by the leaders of Russia testify to the fact that the Asian component in Russia's foreign policy has a great weight, the spokesman stressed.

Yastrzhembskiy expressed confidence that Boris Yeltsin's visit to India will mark a new reference point in the fully de-ideologised relations between Russia and India. The visit is expected to overcome the drawn-out pause in bilateral contacts at the top level. It is expected that the Russian and Indian leaders will sign a considerable number of bilateral documents on interaction of the two countries in different fields. He added that the package would be crowned by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India.

Says Ties With Hungary To Grow Despite Treaty

LD2201184493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vyacheslav Katyayev and Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today that the Russian Parliament's failure to ratify the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Hungary on Thursday was "a sad fact". Responding to questions from journalists he expressed regret about this sad fact.

We believed that the situation around the preparation and signing of this treaty is absolutely clear, Yastrzhembskiy said. It is quite clear that we need to unequivocally distance ourselves from totalitarianism, proceeding from the democratic perspective for the peoples of Russia and Hungary, the Russian spokesman said.

However, a group of deputies in the Supreme Soviet (parliament) disagreed with the preamble of the treaty, which characterises their political stand quite graphically. Many speakers from the democratic bloc in the parliament also spoke in support of the provisions in the preamble which evaluate the tragic events in Hungary in 1956.

This "vexing delay" of the ratification by no means signifies any substantial changes in Russia's foreign policy, Yastrzhembskiy said. "We believe that the problem will be resolved in the near future and will not affect relations between Russia and Hungary which are developing quite favourably at present", the spokesman said.

National Forces Voice 'Full Support for Iraq'

JN2401154993 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 24, INA—The Russian National Forces have voiced full support for Iraq in the confrontation with the imperialist Atlantic-Zionist forces.

This came when a delegation representing these forces, headed by the national figure Saji Omalatova, head of the Supreme Soviet of the former USSR, [name and title as received] visited the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow in an expression of solidarity with the Iraqi people against the recent aggression.

The delegation stressed the Russian National Forces' readiness to continue their efforts to press the Russian Government into adopting a new policy supportive of the just and legitimate goals for which the Iraqi people struggle.

The Iraqi ambassador to Moscow gave a detailed explanation of the nature of the new aggression which targetted civilian installations and residential areas in different parts of Iraq. He underlined Iraq's determination to defend its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity against any attack.

10 'Volunteers' Leave for Iraq To Fight U.S. 'Evil'

LD2401125193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A total of 10 of [Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Volfovich] Zhirinovskiy's falcons [paramilitary group members] left by air for Iraq this morning to fight the United States. During the departure ceremony at Sheremetyevo Airport, Vladimir Volfovich gave the volunteers a fatherly pat on the arm and delivered a long speech, which essentially boiled down to the fact that the United States is an evil empire. According to Zhirinovskiy, all the volunteers have knowledge of military matters:

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] They are specialists in modern armaments and at partisan warfare, so to speak, and at subversive operations. They are acquainted with all types of weapons, and they have undergone training. [end recording]

The volunteers' journey is being paid for out of Party funds. They are to become the concern of the Iraqi authorities. It is not yet clear how long the volunteers will be in Iraq, but one of them said that they would be there until victory. Zhirinovskiy's Party continues to recruit and train volunteers. Zhirinovskiy himself believes there is no infringement of Russian laws in doing this.

Meanwhile, the Russian authorities remain silent. [Video shows Zhirinovskiy at an airport terminal greeting men dressed in blue uniforms and red berets and wearing gun belts; posters giving (095) 921-81-59 as the phone number for anyone who wants to register as a volunteer for Iraq.]

Rutskoy Urges Veto of Attacks on Iraq

LD2501104893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Zelenin]

[Text] Beirut January 25 TASS—The Lebanese newspaper AL-HAYAT published an interview with the Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy on Sunday quoting him as saying that Russia should use its right of veto in the UN Security Council if the latter decides to make another armed attack on Iraq.

Rutskoy believes that an attempt to resolve the Iraqi crisis by military means will not lead to the settlement of the problem. In this connection Rutskoy called on the international community to abide by political and economic measures of exercising influence on Iraq.

According to Rutskoy, there is no guarantee that missiles used against Iraq will hit Iraqi military facilities only.

"Those who believe in this ignore the rules of a contemporary war," Rutskoy said.

Despite certain disagreements between Moscow and Washington about the latest developments in zone of the Persian Gulf, Rutskoy described Russian-American relations as "excellent and promising".

"The position of the two great powers prompts them to develop cooperation," Rutskoy said.

'Noticeable Disagreements' Noted With U.S. on Iraq

LD2501011993

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 24 January broadcasts a 3.5-minute video report by commentator Mikhail Osokin from Iraq from the "Itogi" newscast. Osokin looks at the change of administration in Washington and how it affects events surrounding Iraq. He quotes reaction of Iraqi newspapers on Bush leaving the White House, and notes that on the day of Clinton's inauguration Iraq stopped firing and showed its readiness to observe the UN resolution. However, the United States delivered new blows against Iraq, he says.

Osokin notes that a number of Clinton's advisers state that, if Baghdad violates the UN resolution again, the United States should undertake active military actions which may include the bombardment of Iraqi Army barracks, stockpiles, and key military facilities. He goes on to say that U.S. actions worry Moscow politicians.

"A tough position with regard to Iraq is being preserved in statements by Russian officials, but the American

operations against Iraq were described as inappropriate and an excessive reaction. Moscow spoke in favor of convening a new meeting of the UN Security Council and stated that actions should be taken on the basis of agreed decisions. One may think that these decisions are largely designated for domestic consumption. The Russian Government is forced to react to its opposition in the parliament, many activists of which state that Iraq has become a victim of imperialists.

"It is possible that the government also is trying to take into consideration the feelings of Russian Muslims. At the same time, officials in Moscow evidently are preoccupied with something else—that the war between the United States and Baghdad may create a dangerous precedent somewhere else, in the former Yugoslavia, for instance. Where are guarantees that the West will not decide to act there in a similar way without consulting Russia?

"On the whole, Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn lost the battle again, but he can console himself with the fact that this battle has caused noticeable disagreements between the United States, its allies, and Russia. Now Saddam is waiting to see what the new U.S. Administration will undertake. Incidentally, it looks as if he hopes for changes in the Kremlin. After recent visits to Baghdad by activists of the Russian opposition, Saddam stated that, according to his information, the president of Russia will be removed from power soon by other forces that would restore immediately the former friendship with Iraq."

He then goes on to cite the poll carried out by the "Public Opinion" fund last week especially for "Itogi." According to this poll, 41 percent of Russian citizens are in favor of using military force against Iraq in the case of it violating the demands of the world community, 30 percent believe that it is unnecessary to use force even in such a critical situation, and 28 percent experienced difficulty in answering the question. The total number of people polled is not specified.

Moscow May Call For Sanctions Against Croatia

LD2501100793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0957 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—Russia may call for international sanctions against Croatia if it does not stop military activities against Serbs, according to a Russian deputy foreign minister.

The Russian representative at the United Nations has already received corresponding instructions, Vitaliy Churkin told TASS on Monday, adding that the issue would hardly be raised immediately.

The Foreign Ministry follows the developments, he said.

Yeltsin To Visit Kuwait in Feb

LD2501092393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0828 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yelistratov]

[Text] Cairo January 25 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will pay an official visit to Kuwait at the beginning of the next month, officials reported in the Kuwaiti capital on Sunday [24 January].

The Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD quoted a statement to this effect as saying that the visit of the Russian president "would be held in the framework of consultations, the development of cooperation and strengthening of bilateral relations between Russia and Kuwait in the light of changes taking place in the world arena and developments underway in the Middle East region."

Shumeyko Optimistic Over Yeltsin's India Visit

LD2301145893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 23 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] New Delhi January 23 TASS—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko believes that President Yeltsin's official visit to India, scheduled for the end of January, "is ready in all aspects and will be a success." Shumeyko gave an interview to ITAR-TASS today before leaving for Moscow, in which he expressed confidence that the New Delhi summit would give a political impetus to the comprehensive development of Russian-Indian relations.

Shumeyko, who is also the co-chairman of the Joint Intergovernmental Russian-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, held final talks with Indian Minister of Finance Manmohan Singh, who is heading the Indian part of the commission, the defence and foreign ministers within the framework of preparations for Yeltsin's visit. Today he was received by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. According to Shumeyko, during the discussion both sides expressed the desire to find mutually acceptable solutions. Special attention was devoted to the payment of state credits by India, which were granted to it some time ago by the Soviet Union, and to military-technical cooperation.

The Russian delegation reiterated its stand, under which the maximum indulgence during the recalculation of the rouble exchange rate with regard to the rupee, which is used in the payment of India's debt, could mean the actual writing-off of some 28 per cent of the debt. Shumeyko stressed that "it is the limit, to which Russia may agree, maintaining normal relations with the partner."

So far as military-technical cooperation is concerned, Russia reiterated at the talks its readiness to supply spares for the military hardware of Soviet make, which was adopted by the Indian armed forces.

Fourteen Russian-Indian documents have been prepared for the forthcoming Yeltsin's visit. According to Shumeyko, about ten of them, the most important ones, may be signed during the summit.

Commentator on Visit's Purpose

BK2401150593 Moscow Radio Moscow in Hindi 1100 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit India from 27 to 29 January. In this connection, our commentator Aleksey Kondrayev elucidates Russian foreign policy with respect to Asia.

The commentator writes, first of all, it is imperative to note that Boris Yeltsin's visit to India will make Russia's foreign policy more effective in Asia. Boris Yeltsin's visit to South Korea last November threw open Asia's doors to Russia. And a month later, he visited the PRC. The outcome of these two visits has made the Russian foreign policy objectives clear with respect to Asia. In our view, Boris Yeltsin's visit to India will be helpful to highlight the objectives and priorities of Russian foreign policy in an important region like Asia. The future talks between Russian and Indian leaders on the question of foreign policy will, no doubt, prove successful. And there is sufficient reason to assert this.

In the past few decades, no differences of opinion were seen between Russia and India in the sphere of foreign policy. Even now, no difference exists between them. On several occasions, Russian leaders have declared that India always occupies a significant place in Russia's foreign policy. Basic political changes are taking place in the Asia-Pacific region as well as the entire world in the current post cold war era. During Russia-India summit talks in New Delhi, the question as to how a practical shape can be given to Russia-India cooperation in the international arena will be accorded due consideration. There is no doubt that the relations between the erstwhile Soviet Union and India greatly helped to stabilize the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. The Russia-India cooperation will also have a positive impact on the situation in the region.

Judging the outcome of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Asian countries, we can say that a new balance of power is going to be established in Asia. Russia has totally normalized its relations with the PRC. It has also established friendly and working relations with South Korea. On the other side, India and the PRC have made adequate progress in improving their bilateral ties. All this creates an atmosphere of mutual understanding, fruitful multilateral cooperation, and good neighborly relations between Moscow, Delhi, and Beijing in the (?entire) Asian region. However, the relations between Russia, India, and the PRC will not assume the shape of political hegemony. But the improvement of relations and development of friendly ties between the three major countries will greatly influence the political, economic, and military situation in the Asia-Pacific region and the entire world as well.

In view of the balance of power in the region, it is expected that the United States, Japan, and all other countries of the region will take part in the positive changes taking place in the region. For instance, Japan is supportive of the earlier concept for establishing a combined security system in the Asia-Pacific region. It is certain that the cooperation between Russia, the PRC, and India will not only help in implementing this concept but also have a positive impact on the hopes and aspirations of those countries who really want to live in an atmosphere of everlasting peace void of any threat. This is the basic objective of Russia's foreign policy in Asia.

Talks With Georgia Suspended Until 25 Jan

LD2301124793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The third round of the Russian-Georgian talks, planned for today in Tbilisi, has been suspended until 25 January the NEGA agency reports. The cancellation was made on the initiative of Russian special envoy Feliks Kovalev and connected with an attack on one of the Russian border units on the outskirts of Tbilisi on 22 January, as a result of which two Russian soldiers were killed. Feliks Kovalev demanded that the Georgian side should carry out a thorough investigation of the incident before 25 January.

Churkin Discusses Relations With Estonia, Latvia

MK2201160793 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by Mikhail Bredis; place and date not given: "Talks Creak Along"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin shared his opinion on the situation regarding relations between Russia and Estonia and Latvia especially for KURANTY readers:

[Churkin] So far our Estonian colleagues have been disappointing us. We have had contacts. The atmosphere has undoubtedly improved. For example, our Estonian colleagues promised that the republic would adopt legislation under which pensioners would not have to pass any language test in order to obtain Estonian citizenship. Furthermore, there is an intention to grant everyone born in Estonia citizenship of the republic automatically, without naturalization and a language test. The Estonians confirmed these intentions. We replied that that would be wonderful. But it is time to move on from words to deeds.

As regards the last round of Russian-Estonian talks, the problems mentioned were talked about only in general terms. The talks were on military, social, and economic questions. It must be said that there has been no particular progress. There is some more work still to be done.

[Bredis] But was the Foreign Ministry's position in the talks with Latvia in Jurmala influenced by the statement of the Russian president's press secretary on the violation of the rights of Latvia's Russian-speaking population?

[Churkin] No, but our concern remains. Latvia probably has the most unfavorable situation. There is a growing number of draft laws which in practice discriminate between citizens and noncitizens. For example, a draft law has been submitted to parliament under which Latvian citizens will have the right to carry weapons, whereas noncitizens will have the right to carry only gas canisters.

[Bredis] But will a considerable number of Russians be citizens?

[Churkin] That is so. But on the other hand, many of them will be noncitizens. They are simply not sure of their future, while new elements of inequality in the approach toward them are appearing all the time.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Sends Greetings to Security Services

LD2201135593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—On the eve of the professional holiday of the Russian security ministry personnel, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent them greetings in which he stressed the importance of their work.

"The activities of the federal bodies of state security and border troops aimed to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity, the constitutional system of Russia, ensure economic security, fight against corruption, terrorism and other grave offences against the individual, society and state, are understood and supported by the Russian people, the president and the government," the center for public relations of the Russian Security Ministry quotes the greetings as saying.

Yeltsin Returns to Moscow After CIS Summit

LD2201225693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2225 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Jan—Late on Friday evening [22 January], Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin returned to Moscow from Minsk, where he took part in the session of heads of state and government of the CIS countries. He was accompanied by other participants of the meeting, the members of the Russian Federation delegation.

Chernomyrdin, Deputies Meet, Set Next Ministers' Session

OW2501110293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the morning of 25 January, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held a working meeting with deputy heads of the government. According to reports from the government press center, such Monday meetings of cabinet leaders have become traditional; they are usually dedicated to planning the coming week's work.

The next meeting of the Council of Ministers is set for Thursday, 28 January. The agenda for the meeting contains two main points.

The cabinet intends to hear reports from various heads of federal ministries and state committees regarding the work they have done; the ministries include economy, finance, foreign economic relations, the heads of the anti-monopoly committee, the committee for economic cooperation with CIS countries, and the state committee on property.

The government also intends to discuss a draft of the state program to 1995 for the decontamination of the Ural region and the rendering of aid to those who have suffered there.

The government press center also verified an invitation to Viktor Chernomyrdin to attend the 28 January session of parliament. The press center's representatives did not, however, give a definitive answer to the question of whether he would make a speech, since a cabinet session has been called for the very same day.

According to unofficial information, Chernomyrdin's preliminary plan is to make a speech on 28 January at the Russian Supreme Council.

Staff Chief Filatov Says Yeltsin Controls Own Agenda

LD2501013893

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 24 January broadcasts a feature by "Itogi" announcer Kiselev on former First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Sergey Filatov, who recently took over from Yuriy Petrov as chief of the president's administration.

Kiselev cites speculative comments on the reasons for Petrov's departure and goes on to give a brief biography of Filatov. The video shows Kiselev seated together with Filatov in the latter's office. After Filatov answers a question about the reasons for his appointment, the video shows his office, with Kiselev recalling previous occupants, such as Stalin, of the offices and corridors. Kiselev says that Molotov is supposed to have occupied Filatov's office at one time. The video shows archive footage of Molotov seated alongside Stalin, and Kiselev recalls that Molotov was one of the first heads of the Kremlin office.

Kiselev then invites Filatov to comment on his first general impressions of his new job. Kiselev says: "For some time, our society has feared the 'Boldin' syndrome. Everyone is familiar with the renowned figure of Boldin who, in his time, during the days of Gorbachev and the USSR, heading the apparatus here, in these very buildings in the Kremlin, well, to be crude, manipulated the information which reached the president, and limited the access of various people to him. So now, who determines who Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin meets and who he does not meet, which people he receives, which papers are put on the table before him and which not? Who regulates the flow of information and people to the President?

Filatov replies: "Well, first and foremost, the president himself." When Kiselev questions this, Filatov adds: "Of

course, first and foremost, because he constructs his work, proceeding as it were from his personal agenda. So, he discusses these matters with his close entourage and these matters are tackled in that close entourage." When Kiselev asks about this close entourage, Filatov replies: "Well, I have said the first assistant to the president, Viktor Vasiliyevich Ilyushin, and Valeriy Pavlovich Semenchenko, who is in charge of the office. So I think that this is where everything is shaped and goes together with the papers, so to speak, for signature, and everything comes from there. Everything is prepared—in the long term, so to speak, and day to day life, it is prepared meters away, so to speak, from the administration, that is, all the remaining structures of this apparatus and the government."

Tajikistan's Prime Minister Holds Moscow News Conference

LD2201164793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0030 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister of Tajikistan held a news conference in Moscow on 21 January. Our correspondent Aleksandr Kurilin has the details.

[Kurilin] Before the news conference started, journalists were shown a 10-minute video on the events in Tajikistan. This convincingly demonstrated the facts of the terror against their own people unleashed by the Islamic fundamentalists who last May overthrew the legal authorities and infringed upon the Constitution.

Tajikistan's prime minister then answered numerous questions. Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov spoke, inter alia, about the return of the refugees. In his words, more than 300,000 of the 600,000 refugees have already returned to their homes, and more than 2,000 have returned from Afghanistan.

The process of surrendering weapons is also under way in the republic, if slowly. More than 3,000 firearms, over 30 armored vehicles, and several artillery installations have already been surrendered. The Tajik prime minister stressed the need for humanitarian assistance to his country from the CIS and the world community.

Describing the situation in Tajikistan, Abdullodzhanov said:

[Begin Abdullodzhanov recording] After the well-known session of the Supreme Soviet, the political situation in the republic is continuously improving. Of course, that unjustified fratricidal war between Tajiks has caused such moral damage—not to mention material and economic damage—that it will remain in the memory of Tajiks for long years to come. The Republican leadership is currently doing everything possible in order to pull the republic's economy up.

The republic is now facing three tasks. The first one is to restore the national economy after the bloody war. To date the losses amount to more than 300 billion rubles, which represents a very heavy burden for the Republic of Tajikistan. The second task is to activate all industrial and agricultural production in the near future. Over the past six to seven months it has been practically out of operation. Of course, our third task is to tackle economic reform. [end recording]

[Kurilin] Asked about the need to introduce CIS peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, the prime minister said:

[Begin Abdullodzhanov recording] As regards the peacekeeping forces, I would say the following: Yes, there is such a need because peace is emerging in the republic, a delicate peace which is taking its first small steps. If we fail to keep it, you can imagine the consequences. Therefore we believe that if peacekeeping forces are introduced, this delicate peace will have more chances to establish itself. [end recording]

Civic Union Calls For New Constitution, Early Elections

PM2201103793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jan 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Civic Union' Seeks Compromise"]

[Text] A statement adopted by "Civic Union" says that the compromise reached at the Seventh Congress is being violated. The "staff" charged with preparing the upcoming referendum, which is headed by First Vice Premier Shumeyko, faces the task of securing a "victory" for one of the political groupings. Monopoly control over the mass media is being established, and this is creating conditions for manipulating public opinion. "Civic Union" resolutely opposes such activities.

The statement stressed that "Civic Union" believes that the only genuinely democratic way out of the current crisis of power is to adopt a new constitution and to hold early presidential and parliamentary elections on its basis no later than spring 1994. Progress toward this objective may be helped by convening a "roundtable" involving major political organizations and movements, the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government.

Conference Discusses Constitutional Process

LD2201160693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—The scientific-practical conference devoted to the "75th Anniversary of the Russian Constituent Assembly and the Constitutional Process in the Country", which opened here today, is focusing on the development of the constitutional process in Russia and the problem of convening a constituent assembly.

It is worth recalling that a conference devoted to "The Development of the Constitutional Process in Russia

and the Expediency and Possibility of Convening an All-Russia Constituent Assembly" was held recently in St. Petersburg. It addressed scientific recommendations to the Congress of People's Deputies, the president and the Constitutional Court suggesting ways to adopt a new constitution of the Russian Federation. The current Moscow forum, attended by many people's deputies of the Russian Federation, politicians, scientists and businessmen, is a logical continuation of the St. Petersburg conference.

Opening it, Chairman of the Russian Parliamentary Committee for the Economic Reform and Property Affairs Sergey Krasavchenko noted that the "purpose of the conference is to restore the historic truth about the constituent assembly and to draw up principles for its convocation".

Academician Aleksandr Yakovlev believes that the "holding of a constituent assembly is something that will decide the future of Russia". Agreeing with him, co-chairman of the Free Democratic Party Marina Salye noted that "the question of Russia's state pattern, which is the main problem, has still not been resolved". This is explained by the fact, Chairman of the Russian Democratic Reforms Movement Gavriil Popov said in his report, that "after the August putsch the newly-formed democratic institutes of power have committed the most serious mistake by refusing to call a constituent assembly and to adopt a new constitution". Popov again went on record for the organisation of a centrist bloc for reforms.

Addressing the conference, Doctor of History Andrey Zubov moved to include one question in the bulletins of the forthcoming referendum: What state body do the people trust to adopt a new constitution? Seconding this idea, Popov said, however, that the Russian people should be asked to answer three more questions: Must Russia be a federal or unitary state? And also the questions of state national organisation and land ownership.

It is worth noting that all the conference participants shared the view that it is expedient to call a constituent assembly. Assistant Executive Secretary of the Constitutional Commission Viktor Sheynis nevertheless expressed doubts about such an all- national forum, stressing that the belief that "the power crisis can be overcome by means of a constitutional assembly is one more constitutional illusion".

Media Issues

Yeltsin Clarifies Powers of Federal Information Center

OW2201185193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [21 January] President Boris Yeltsin issued a resolution to confirm the provision on the Federal Information Center [FIC] of Russia and its structure. (The Federal Information Center was formed in accordance with a presidential decree dated December 25, 1992 and is a federal body subordinate to the President. The majority of the Russian parliament, including its head, Ruslan Khasbulatov, criticized Yeltsin's decision as they believe that the FIC can monopolize public opinion influencing the outcome of the referendum on the major provisions of Russia' constitution - Interfax). The document states that the center was created "to support reforms in the sphere of information, to increase the role of the press, information agencies, television and radio to explain state policy."

The Center's main tasks include the following: - coordination of state policy in the sphere of periodic press, information activity, television and radio; - ensuring prompt and broad distribution of precise information about the reform process in Russia and explaining Russia's state policy though the press and mass media; - interaction with the legislative and executive bodies of power and non-state structures to develop drafts of legislative acts and other regulating documents in the sphere of the press and mass media; - assisting the establishmemnt of relations between the president and Russian government with public organizations, parties and movements; - analysis of the prospects and directions of state policy, forecasting the results of how the ppresident's and government's decisions are implemented; - rendering assistance in the sphere of informing the international public about the political, economic, and cultural life in Russia and expanding information and cultural relations with foreign countries.

To fulfil their tasks the Federal Information Center can create structural branches on Russian territory and abroad.

The Russian President appoints the FIC leader. (At the end of 1992, Yeltsin signed a decree on the appointment of Mikhail Poltoranin, the former Vice Premier, to this post - Interfax.) He may have 5 deputies, two of them the first deputies. The structural organization of the FIC envisages the creation of 8 sections according to their function.

The decree states that the Center will be financed through republican budget allocations for state governing bodies, and from other sources in accordance with existing legislature.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Appearing at the international press center in Moscow on January 18, Poltoranin said that 40 Mn rubles are needed to finance the center. This "scanty" sum, as he said, will be allocated from the President's fund.

According to Yeltsin's decree, the annual wage fund for employees of the FIC apparatus should total 48,528,000 rubles in accordance with the outer number of

employees, 98 total (except the personnel to guard and service the building). Their wages are equal to the wages of presidential administration employees.

Filatov, Others Comment on Yeltsin's Broadcasting Decree

LD2501000093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Report by Yevgeniy Kiselev, including recorded interviews with Russian Vice Premier Sergey Filatov on 23 January; Aleksey Samokhvalov, doctor of Juridical Sciences, chief editor of the 'Novyy Mir' legal news bulletin; and Yuriy Baturin, Doctor of Juridical Sciences, one of the authors of the Russian Federation Law on the Mass Media; places and dates of Samokhvalov and Baturin interviews not given; from the "Itogi" program]

[Text] [Kiselev] This week something happened that gave rise to a storm of passions and even a prestrike readiness here at Ostankino. President Yeltsin signed a decree with the rather obscure title: On transferring to the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company the status of statewide television and radio company. The main reason for the upset is the loss of the fourth channel and the instruction to the Ministry of Communications, along with the All-Russian Television and Radio Company—I quote—to endorse within a period of two weeks a plan of measures to develop a television program transmission network which ensures that programs reach the largest possible proportion of the Russian public. [Kiselev holds up sheets of printed paper] Before explaining the meaning of this imperceptible bomb I should like to draw your attention to something else: on the fax copy of the decree we received, bearing the signature of the resident on the second page, there is this hand-written note: Not proofread [ne vychitan], 19 January 1993, 1710.

What is the meaning of that, then? Where are such decrees drawn up? I could not but take advantage of the opportunity of putting that question yesterday to Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov, the new leader of the presidential apparatus.

[Kiselev, to Filatov, in the latter's office] Drafts of presidential decrees are mainly drawn up in the legal department. You have inherited this decree, so to speak; nevertheless, any technical expert could confirm that the only way of transferring to the network with the maximum range is to transfer Ostankino from the first to the second program, and the Russian channel from the second to the first program. I will tell you frankly that hundreds of Ostankino journalists see in this an attempt by the management of the other company to solve the problem of who owns which channel, not by using the method of creative competition on the air, so to speak, but by some sort of apparatchik game.

[Filatov] When I saw the interview and the news conference about this yesterday, I saw there was some unease. But I would like to study the situation in more detail. I can only promise you that I shall go into this question and then voice my viewpoint.

[Kiselev, back in studio] Sergey Filatov mentioned the news conference by Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Company, and the latter's ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA interview of 22 January, where he voices his viewpoint. [Video shows newspaper articles, quotes on screen] I quote from the newspaper: The president respectfully backs the structure established by the Russian Supreme Soviet. End quote. There are no grounds for disputing this assertion, since the first article of the president's decree virtually reproduces the wording of the Supreme Soviet Presidium's document. Oleg Maksimovich Poptsov draws a logical conclusion: The president has thereby effectively associated himself with the viewpoint of the Supreme Soviet. End quote.

Therein, evidently, lies the political significance of the maneuver: A long awaited unity between the president and the Supreme Soviet could, of course, be a matter for rejoicing, were there not a number of circumstances to which our experts will draw your attention. These are Yuriy Baturin, doctor of juridical sciences, one of the authors of the Russian Law on the Mass Media; and Aleksey Samokhvalov, doctor of juridical sciences, chief editor of the NOVYY MIR legal news bulletin, and also the author of another bill, on the Organization of Television and Radio Broadcasting.

[Samokhvalov] The decree in question is another in the series of decrees which substantially alter the established system of state television and radio organizations, and creates a number of additional problems in this sphere. First, the implementation of the decree will effectively mean the discontinuance of the Ostankino-4 television program, something which can be effected only by the founders or by court. Second, in creating the Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service, or the Federal Information Center, people forgot about the Federal Commission for Television and Radio Broadcasting. Yet the Russian Federation Law on the Mass Media lays down that it is this federal body which grants licences for television and radio broadcasting. In the case of disputes, the question of granting airtime, including the fourth channel, should be resolved on a competitive basis.

Third, one needs to look in detail at the unusual practice, whereby individual managers and organizations are given a high status undefined by the laws currently in force.

[Baturin] Inscrutable are the ways of documents in the apparatus, and obviously they have yet again set the president up politically, sticking in front of him for signing, in circumvention of the state legal administration, I wouldn't be surprised, a draft which is of dubious legality, particularly where the Law on the Mass Media is

concerned, and which is also literally explosive as far as its technical ideas, which are the key ones here, are concerned.

If all those many bodies in our country which are called upon to defend the freedom of the press—the State Inspection for Defense of Press Freedom under the Ministry of Press and Information, that Ministry itself, and the newly formed Federal Information Center—if all these keep silence in this case, then television has become the subject of a big political game. As a result, a step has been taken toward destabilizing the situation, a step particularly dangerous given the present political crisis. First, if the customary programs start going out on different channels and others disappear altogether, then this will come as a shock to people living in a country where everything has fallen to pieces as it is; furthermore, not only in Russia, but also in the CIS. Second, television is a weapon which politicians use in their in-fighting, and now they have started to tear this weapon away from one another. One wonders what the result will be.

Television is today a factor of nationwide security and stability, while being at the same time a source of heightened danger, like a nuclear power station, for example. Tampering with that complex mechanism using a political jimmy is not on; we could land up with an electronic Chernobyl.

New Ostankino TV Chief Bragin Interviewed

PM2501113593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the "Ostankino" Television and Radio Company, by Anna Broydo; place and date not given: "'I Have Always Striven for Dialogue,' Vyacheslav Bragin, New Chairman of the 'Ostankino' Television and Radio Company, Says"]

[Text] [Broydo] Vyacheslav Ivanovich, how do you interpret your "new appointment"?

[Bragin] I am grateful to Boris Nikolayevich for doing me this honor and for his trust. At the same time I realize that by appointing me to the job of chairman of the "Ostankino" Television and Radio Company, he has placed a great responsibility on me. I hope to carry out this work in a worthy manner. However, that does not mean that I intend to impose my political views on whoever I please. I was the president's representative in Tver and during the Russian presidential election I headed the campaign for Yeltsin's election in the area—my political sympathies are unchanged in this regard. I am proud to belong to the democratic wing of public forces, among people united by the desire to do everything to encourage radical economic and political reform and thereby foster the rebirth of Russia. At the same time I have my own opinions about everything, I have never represented and never will represent "someone else's" position or be in "someone else's pocket."

[Broydo] Nevertheless, Leonid Kravchenko's remarks involuntarily spring to mind: "I have come to execute the president's will..."

[Bragin] I do not think that "I have come to execute the will" of any one person in particular. In my view, television should reflect the entire spectrum of political and social trends that exist in society, even if these differ somewhat from the positions of the president, the head of the government, or the Supreme Soviet chairman.

[Broydo] You have had frequent clashes with representatives of the opposition, for example with the "Anpilovists," over the same issue of "Ostankino." Won't you give in to the temptation to settle scores?

[Bragin] Of course, with regard to my political views I am quite definitely on the opposite side from the National Salvation Front, say, but that does not mean that I will therefore be closed to dialogue or contact with parties and leaders of different political persuasions. I have always striven for this; here, for example, in the office of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for the Mass Media, I have had frequent meetings with Gennadiy Zyuganov, Sergey Baburin, Nikolay Pavlov, and other opposition leaders.

[Broydo] You didn't fight?

[Bragin] No, we were able to have a normal conversation. Moreover, I took part in talks with the pickets at "Ostankino" headed by Viktor Anpilov. They were initially extremely nervy—not through any fault of ours—but then they seemed to quieten down. Admittedly, I felt that the other side's representatives were primarily geared up to creating a furor rather than looking for a constructive solution to the problem. After all, nobody was ever frightened by remarks made by figures such as Makashov, Umalatov, or Alksnis—people in present-day Russia have graduated from the grown-ups' school of the development of a civil society and are able to choose for themselves whom to follow and whom to support. Under me "Ostankino" will not be afraid of giving free airtime to representatives of various political views, provided, of course, that they act according to the law and conform at least to basic ethical practice.

[Broydo] People say that "a new broom sweeps clean." Aren't you planning to "sweep away" certain people from the company's collective?

[Bragin] During my working life I have arrived in new collectives as the director on several occasions, and I have never organized reshuffles or cadre leapfrogging. I place a high value on the creative and personality level of the "Ostankino" collective, as a television viewer who has himself been brought up on it to a considerable extent; I simply adore many of the commentators, announcers, and television journalists. I am therefore optimistic about the work we will be doing together and I think we will be able to establish normal but mutually demanding and creative relations. The "Ostankino"

Television and Radio Company's place in Russian life is too highly valued and crucial to allow anyone to introduce nervousness and instability into the collective's activity.

[Broydo] Do you share the opinion that Sergey Filatov and Vyacheslav Bragin's departure from the Supreme Soviet is connected with the fact that the president, people are saying, is finally giving up on the parliament and picking out his supporters from it?

[Bragin] The Supreme Soviet is itself to blame for the unflattering reputation it has gained. The departure of Sergey Filatov and other people I respect for the executive branch is, among other things, symptomatic of a situation that makes it impossible for democratically-minded deputies to continue working in the Supreme Soviet. For example, our committee has been subjected to daily pressure and undeserved insulting attacks for a year now, we have basically been under harsh political siege. We have simply not been allowed to work, we have constantly been dragged into endless "investigations" about particular articles in the press and the provocative dispute over IZVESTIYA. Basically, they strove make to the committee a "Supreme Soviet Agitprop"—along the lines of a CPSU Central Committee Agitprop. Moreover, the organizer and inspirer of this persecution was Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov, who persisted either in simply ignoring the committee or attempting to bypass its opinion by setting up commissions composed of people of his choosing. And all this because the positions of the committee and the speaker in relation to the press and its role in society did not coincide. I must make special mention of the form of this "debate": I could recall plenty of episodes when people who evidently classed themselves among the intellectual elite made totally indecent remarks about the committee.

[Broydo] Could it be said that you, Press Minister Mikhail Fedotov, and Federal Information Center Director Mikhail Poltoranin are a single team?

[Bragin] Many things unite us. I worked with Mikhail Aleksandrovich Fedotov on the Law on the Mass Media and other problems of legislative activity in the information sphere. And I cooperated very closely with Mikhail Nikiforovich in the committee where we upheld the policy of offering material support to the mass media (completely independent of its political affiliation, moreover) and attempted—unlike the Supreme Soviet—to free the press from profit tax and value-added tax, and introduce credit entitlements for the mass media, etc. At the same time we would also clash when we thought that the executive branch was not taking the parliamentary committee's position into account.

State TV, Radio Company Denies Claims on Ostankino

LD2201232893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1937 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—"We are not going to move to Ostankino or lay claims on the First TV Channel," heads of the Russian State TV and Radio Company Oleg Poptsov and Anatoliy Lysenko told a news conference here today.

The news conference was provoked with rumors after the Russian president signed a decree on granting the national status to the Russian State TV and Radio Company.

Poptsov stressed the document, which was prepared for three months and overcame all bureaucratic obstacles, was aimed to create a more efficient and reasonable regime for the work of the radio and television. He also said the decree is a rare case of unanimity of views of the executive and legislative authorities.

Ostankino will preserve the status of an inter-state company, the Russian company, in its turn, will cater to the Russian Federation.

Speaking of the fourth channel, which is now under the supervision of the Russian company, its heads said they are open for cooperation with colleagues from Ostankino and will use in the Russian universities program to be broadcast in a few months the huge potential of scientific editions, which are now on the verge of collapse.

The switching into the Moscow-global network is also justified, said the news conference speakers. This will enable Russian TV broadcasts to foreign states and former Soviet Republics. The Russian company is concluding direct broadcast agreements with Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Latvia.

Poptsov recalled, when creating the Russian company "they abandoned a traditional Soviet method of diving [as received] property but strived to enhance potential abilities of television and the radio on Russian territory".

Today the company has enormous technical and material difficulties. Independence on TV and the radio is not convictions but technical equipment, they said. At the same time, the company heads are categorically against the combination of Ostankino and the Russian company, which, in their opinion, will be grounds for monopoly and deprive broadcasts of sound competition and viewers of a possibility to choose.

Military Issues

Admiral Gromov on Gulf Role, Black Sea Fleet, START

MK2301143493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, by Aleksandr Yakovlev; place and date not given: "Our Ships in the Persian Gulf:

Russian Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Feliks Gromov Is Worried About the Uncertain Status of the Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] [Yakovlev] You recently returned from the Persian Gulf region. What specifically are the Russian seamen doing there?

[Gromov] The large antisubmarine ship Admiral Tributs is in the Persian Gulf at the moment. I was there 4 January. The crew's morale is good. This ship replaced the large antisubmarine ship Admiral Vinogradov, which spent four months there engaged in exercises in communications and helicopter landings with ships from the navies of the United States, Britain, and France. But this does not mean that our ships are under the command of the multinational forces. They are operating only according to the Russian Navy's plans, and fulfilling the task set by our government. That is to show support for the UN sanctions against Iraq. And we ensure that the Russian ships are in a safe place.

[Yakovlev] How do you assess the state of the Navy in the present complex economic and sociopolitical situation?

[Gromov] In our view the main thing is to preserve the optimum combat structure of the Navy. And I think we are succeeding in this, on the whole. The Pacific, Northern, and Baltic Fleets have maintained their forces and have not suffered from the general phenomena associated with declining combat readiness. Furthermore, last year there was an adequate number of exercises and some very interesting missile firings, and a new aircraft-carrying ship was acquired. This year navigation by surface ships and submarines continues. Long and short voyages are being made. The level of naval training is improving.

[Yakovlev] But there have been problems?

[Gromov] Certainly. In connection with the formation of the independent states, we had to withdraw the forces of the Caspian Flotilla from Baku and a brigade of Black Sea Fleet ships from Poti, and to withdraw the Baltic Fleet forces from the Baltic countries. Yet a number of the bases we left had been acquired under Peter the Great's edicts. Problems correspondingly arise with the creation of a new basing infrastructure. The problem of providing housing for officer personnel is becoming still more acute. Questions that cannot be resolved in six months.

[Yakovlev] How is the Black Sea Fleet problem being resolved?

[Gromov] The talks between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents on 15 January began with the Black Sea Fleet question. The two sides agreed on the candidacy of the new Black Sea Fleet commander. He is Vice Admiral Eduard Dmitriyevich Baltin. He has sufficient service experience and will, I think, control the fleet intelligently and responsibly. At the same time the talks process is not proceeding actively enough. As a participant in this process, I think the two sides should bear in mind that the place held by the Black Sea Fleet had arisen historically. Everything relating to the main base of the Black Sea Fleet is precious both to Russia and to the fleet.

[Yakovlev] In these circumstances, is the Black Sea Fleet's combat readiness suffering?

[Gromov] The Black Sea Fleet is engaged in combat training, like the other fleets. Some of its ships have gone to the Mediterranean. Some took part in the withdrawal of troops from Poti and evacuated the refugees from Abkhazia. And we are doing everything to maintain the fleet's forces at the necessary level. But the uncertainty over the status of the Black Sea Fleet for the transitional period and the unresolved questions relating to social protection for officer personnel are still causing concern. Many problems could, in my view, be resolved by giving officers, warrant officers, and ensigns the right of dual citizenship.

[Yakovlev] Is the Russian Navy generally developing, or undergoing a period of technical stagnation?

[Gromov] The old shipbuilding program ceased to exist in 1991. A new 10-year program has been worked out in detail and is being coordinated with the government. The crux of it is to have the optimum necessary deterrent potential, and for Russia's Navy to be capable of resolving the tasks of safeguarding Russia's national interests in whatever region the situation demands.

We have somewhat accelerated the decommissioning of obsolete ships from the fleet. It is to the credit of the Russian Government that a program for recycling nuclear submarines was adopted for the first time in 1992, and the work has begun. The main thing in recycling is the unloading of the nuclear fuel elements. These elements have already been removed from one-third of the just over 80 nuclear submarines that are being decommissioned from the Navy. This process is proceeding virtually uninterruptedly. But the removal of each element takes several months. So it takes time.

[Yakovlev] What lies in store for the Russian Navy in connection with the signing of the Russian-U.S. START II Treaty?

[Gromov] No radical changes are foreseen for the Navy after the signing of this agreement. And there will be virtually no additional expenses in implementing it. We have reduced a proportion of our submarines, and will continue to do so. But there is indeed something new. The START II Treaty stipulates the maximum permitted number of weapons on the submarines remaining on combat status. It is identical for the Russian and U.S. Navies: 2,160 weapons in seven years' time, and between 1700 and 1750 by the year 2003. The United States will have to reduce the number of weapons on its submarines by a factor of 3.3, and Russia by a factor of 1.6- 1.7. In the process of fulfilling the treaty, in seven years' time,

nuclear weapons will be distributed approximately equally between the Russian land-based strategic forces and the Navy.

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin Asks Kemerovo Oblast To Participate in Referendum

LD2301045193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0355 GMT 23 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo, 23 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, appealed to the people of Russia, the inhabitants of Kemerovo Oblast, and the working people of the Kuzbass on Russia's radio channel this morning. He congratulated the people of Siberia on the 50th anniversary of the formation of Kemerovo Oblast and noted that the example of the Kuzbass makes it possible to assess the talent of Russia's people which, during the years of the Great Patriotic War was able to resist what seemed like an invincible enemy and then, in a short time, built up a mighty industry. Boris Yeltsin stressed that the weighty word of the miners from 1989 to 1991 made it possible to break the party nomenclatura and now the future of Russia lies in the vigorous breakthrough of democracy. The President of Russia called upon the people of Siberia to participate actively in the forthcoming referendum which would make it possible to create a strong working constitution for the country. For his part, Boris Yeltsin promised to adopt measures which will not allow the referendum to be turned into an expensive hollow object.

'Influential Forces' Seen Endangering Referendum

MK2201160393 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[INFORM-KURANTY report: "Referendum Threatened With Danger...From Parliament"]

[Text] Concern over the fate of the referendum scheduled for 11 April was yesterday voiced at a news conference held by the parliamentary reform coalition. Journalists' questions were answered by S. Yushenkov, G. Yakunin, L. Ponomarev, and others.

They noted that influential forces in the Supreme Soviet are voicing doubts about the idea of a referendum as well as the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies decree "On the Stabilization of the Russian Federation's Constitutional System." R. Khasbulatov is the most active in this.

The reform coalition proposes to convene an all-Russian conference of democratic forces and movements at the beginning of February. Citizens' right to private ownership of land, a bicameral parliament as the supreme legislative organ, and other things are being proposed as the main provisions of the new Constitution.

The increased activity of national-patriotic and procommunist forces, which are already trying to destabilize the situation and discredit authority, is seen by the supporters of reform as another danger to the referendum.

Economic & Other Issues

Chubays: Chernomyrdin Backs Privatization

PM2201161793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Igor Karpenko on interview with Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Russian State Property Committee; place and date not given: "A. Chubays: There Are No Disagreements Between Me and V. Chernomyrdin Over the Privatization Program"]

[Text] The events at the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies, the resignation of Ye. Gaydar and part of his team, and the new government's first decree on partial state regulation of prices caused general anxiety about the fate of the economic reform. The change in ownership relations is a key element in the current reforms. Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Russian State Property Committee, told IZVESTIYA about the way recent political events have affected the privatization process and about its results last year and the features of the state privatization program for 1993.

"Against the background of the current general disintegration and chaos, the State Committee for State Property system is an unexpected and surprising exception, in my view. In less than a year a management structure has emerged, the only one in the country that covers the whole range from rayons and oblasts to the state as a whole. Moreover, it is a 'living,' functioning structure, capable, it emerges, of carrying out an enormous amount of work swiftly and efficiently. Indeed, the legislative and juridical foundation of privatization has been created literally from scratch, a state privatization program has been decided on, and a substantial package of normative acts has been put together that ensures the implementation of this program and provides a mechanism for the laws to take effect. In practical terms too a great deal has now been done in what is a totally new area for us—changing ownership relations. For example, the following end-of-year figures were given by the State Committee for State Property chairman during the conversation. Around 40,000 enterprises have been privatized—approximately 17-18 percent of the total number in Russia. Yet at the beginning of the year there were not even 50 small stores and restaurants in the country! Shares in more than 5,000 large industrial enterprises have now been floated, and when closed subscription has finished 17 million of their working people will become shareholders. The second wave of privatization has begun. It involves medium-sized enterprises with an incorporation capital of up to 50 million rubles [R]. They are in a majority in Russian industry, the figures running

into tens of thousands. A system of check auctions is taking shape—what is now customarily known as people's privatization.

"Most important of all," A. Chubays believes, "are the qualitative changes in the situation in the sphere of ownership relations and the changes in people's mass consciousness. In the first place, privatization, once an abstract newspaper slogan, has become part of day-to-day life for the majority of the population. Privatization has broken free from the category of 'initiatives,' and has literally reached everyone. And this has happened in less than a year, before our very eyes.

"The second fundamental change is that I can now confidently say that the population's general attitude toward privatization and its general mood are positive. The actual state of privatization and the dynamics and pace of the process are the main indication that this is true, that the State Committee for State Property is not embellishing reality or indulging in wishful thinking. If the key social forces had taken a negative view of privatization neither the State Committee for State Property, nor the government, nor even the president and Supreme Soviet together would have been able to turn privatization from an abstract slogan into a common cause, into reality for millions of people..."

Work has been completed on the draft state program for 1993. But, as is well known, at the Seventh Congress deputies from some parliamentary factions demanded substantial changes in its overall strategy. Is there a possibility of fundamental new decisions in the privatization policy? The chairman's view is unequivocal:

"There will be no fundamental changes in the approach to privatization, we are categorically opposed to that. It is no longer a problem of disagreements on matters of theory between Assistant Professor Chubays and professors or doctors with different views. The course has been set and things are going perfectly normally at the moment. Changing course today would mean simply deceiving millions of people who believed in it and who are playing according to the rules proposed to them yesterday by the government and by parliament. We will defend the basic, fundamental principles of privatization to the last.

"Of course, we must learn lessons from the mistakes we have made and rectify what really needs to be rectified. Adjustments of this kind are also needed because the privatization process is entering a new stage—the stage of people's privatization. The organization of simplified, mass check auctions requires a whole range of measures—you have to train thousands of people, create dozens of normative documents, and actually establish that they work. A check auction process has to be established for thousands and tens of thousands of Russian enterprises and information has to be provided on them, information that is simple and accessible to all. Auctions have to be made to operate in such a way that anyone can use his single check to buy shares in the enterprise of his choice without having to go through any bureaucratic procedures. At the same time, the opposite task has to be tackled—find a method enabling commercial structures that possess a large number of checks to obtain a substantial package of shares in return.

"December saw the country's first eight auctions of industrial enterprises' property, where the basic operating procedure was rehearsed. The main problem that arose at these auctions was how to enable, say, someone living in the Far East city of Nakhodka to buy shares in, for example the 'Bolshevik' factory.

"In ordee to resolve it," A. Chubays said, "an immense and complex program had to be devised to create a telecommunications system for stocks and shares, which we approved. Oblast communications centers will operate throughout Russia, capable of putting on computer all the enterprise stocks sold in the current month and week. Anyone will be able to go to a center and enter his check for any enterprise auction.

"It is a technically complex task, but it is perfectly feasible: We intend to use existing former government communications channels, which have practically nothing to do at the moment and are almost idle. The software and technology are being developed by our own enterprises, under the conversion scheme. They are prepared to do this right away, as soon as the funding is sorted out.

"The idea of these communications can be compared to a privatization check—they are multifunctional. One of the purposes in introducing them is to give a powerful fillip to and to ensure the dynamic development of the stock market. And this has been done more quickly than anyone has ever done it before. The telecommunicaitons system has the same role: Within six months it will provide normal conditions for share trading. It will be a powerful basis for the entire Russian stock market, one that is ultramodern from the outset, and linked up to the world securities market. Within 12-18 months we intend to resolve all the problems that have to be resolved in order to place Russia on a par with the countries with functioning securities markets—the main market system..."

The new privatization program allocates what is essentially the main role to voucher auctions and to checks as the main instrument of privatization. In the case of small-scale privatization, when stores, restaurants, or workshops went under the hammer, it was all simple and clear-cut—the entrepreneur was willing to pay for a good deal and obtained some real property, and the local authorities and state got some good money for their budgets. For that reason privatization happened even more quickly than it should have. Now the city or oblast administration will get nothing from a voucher auction except trouble and, incidentally, loss of the substantial funds, in fact, which are needed to organize the auctions.

"This is one of the most irksome problems, and we are racking our brains over it at the moment. A few of our

opponents, who guessed this," A. Chubays said, "described the problem in a squalid way: 'The State Committee for State Property has invented vouchers, and that means the death of the investment process. Instead of money investors will be investing checks which no one wants. It will also damage the state budget.' Of course, this shows economic ignorance. In fact, as is well known, an enterprise receives neither money nor vouchers, because they go to the local and state budgets. But the opponents are right to say that the budget has lost a certain amount. It is absolutely true that if the government and president decide that citizens should not pay for property that belongs to them and introduce checks for privatization in Russia the budget will lose something. In an economy it cannot be otherwise: Either we say it is free and then the state gets nothing, or we demand that people pay and then the budget is replenished. But this fundamental, political decision is followed by a clutch of practical problems, which you talked about: How do you generate in all the check auction participants the same kind of interest that was present within the context of small-scale privatization? In the launch phase, during closed subscription, working people can pay by check. This is quite a powerful incentive in itself: You do not have to spend your own money to redeem property. The remaining, state portion of the shares is a more complex matter. In the draft statute 'On Enterprise Working People's Share Flotation Fund' we intend to tie the formation of the fund in with the process of selling the remaining portion of shares. Another incentive—the opportunity to acquire the land on which the enterprise stands—will depend on the sale of a certain proportion of the company capital on top of the closed subscription. Incidentally, land can also be acquired in exchange for privatization checks.

"Those who conduct the check auctions—property committees and funds—will also have an interest in organizing them. The funding of them will be commensurate with the number of checks the funds acquire by selling shares, and normative payments for each check have been elaborated. We saw fit to authorize funds also to sell some of the enterprise's assets for rubles, again depending on the volume of property sold for checks. Of course, considerable effort and substantial resources go into the check auctions.

"The last two weeks of December saw the privatization check rate fall sharply: from near face value to R5,000-6,000. This was directly due to political events—the Congress of People's Deputies, the change of government—and entrepreneurs feared for the fate of the reforms and the future development of privatization. Moreover, millions of people have not yet come for their vouchers.

"This," A. Chubays explained, "is due more to our disorganization than to people's reluctance to get the checks. I am sure that 99 percent of the population will have them by the end of the month. Of course, we are keeping a close eye on the state of the check and the daily exchange reports and we are analyzing the check market. The check rate has risen continuously in recent months and, of course, it is bad that the price has fallen. Particularly when the idea of the check is not properly fixed in people's minds. But I cannot say that this is causing us to panic. Moreover, it is perfectly clear that this situation will be short-lived. The check is simply bound to succeed and its rate is bound to rise rapidly in any case. Unless there are major political cataclysms.

"Naturally if the check value falls to a few hundred rubles, thereoretically there is a danger that the present privatization system will collapse. But, on the other hand, the fact that the check is clearly, very visibly reacting to political events in the country is splendid! Indeed, it is 'operating' as a normal, full-fledged security and has the same properties as any security in the developed stock markets abroad. This means that the check has been professionally created, on what is a fundamentally reasonable economic basis..."

"Anatoliy Borisovich, I must ask you a final question, one that worries not only journalists, but many other people as well. The privatization program for 1993 has to be approved by the Supreme Soviet. The discussion of the draft will be no mere formality, because the deputies have their own views on privatization: They have proposed an alternative law on privatization, a 'fourth option' for concessions, the idea of labor collectives having priority and, instead of privatization, transferring the stock to them for them to own or dispose of. In short, the government will have to fight hard for its idea of the development of privatization! Therefore, naturally, one would like to know whether Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin supports its principles, whether the government will be able to defend the state program, presenting a united front, so to speak."

[Chubays] "The state program for 1993 is being submitted for parliamentary examination by the government. This is not a formality, it is extremely important. This is a fact. I spent several hours discussing the 1993 program with Viktor Stepanovich. We covered all the most important points and he expressed his views. In briefly describing the results of the conversation, I will be absolutely sincere: There was not a single principle of the program on which we differed significantly at all. There was one major question on which I had to agree with his proposal—on help for the countryside. In the capital and in oblast and rayon centers it is easy enough for us to offer property for auction and it is taken up. But in the countryside, yes, in the countryside, and not in the rayon centers, we have to help those who take on the burden of buying a rural store. Help by providing credits, creating a transport system, and so on. So on the whole I was very happy with our conversation. Afterward the prime minister signed the draft state program and sent it to the president."

[Karpenko] "So one can consider it to be V. Chernomyrdin's program and expect it to be defended in parliament?"

[Chubays] "Certainly. The program bears his signature. Now, I take a very serious view of the future parliamentary discussion of it. I can well imagine that the opponents are preparing to do battle with the government and what kind of battle they are planning. Obviously, no sensible politician, even a hard-core member of the communist party, would ever say he is against privatization. The train has already left the station. They will say that they wholeheartedly support it, but what kind of privatization, what is to be privatized, when, and so on? Most of the opponents carry banners bearing the slogan: 'Priority for labor collectives!' But in fact their political aim is not to protect labor collectives at all; they do not need this kind of protection and are not asking for it. Their position implies quite a different aim—to destroy and halt the privatization process. Because to change the balance now, rearrange the entire privatization scheme, remove property rights from those who have far fewer privileges than labor collectives as it is would be to ruin it, to kill off checks, large-scale privatization, and the reform as a whole."

Central Bank Issues Instructions on Hard Currency Exchanges

OW2201192293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1902 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia has issued instructions establishing new procedures for receiving hard currency in exchange for trade, labor, and services on the territory of the Russian Federation. Russian legal entities holding new forms of licenses from the Central Bank will be able to receive foreign currency in exchange for only those goods, labor, and services included on a strictly limited list.

They will be able to sell for currency only goods that have been imported and purchased directly from nonresidents through non-cash foreign currency transactions, or from Russian foreign trade intermediary organizations which purchased these goods from nonresidents. The sale of goods manufactured in Russia for hard currency will be forbidden.

Enterprises which have the right to receive hard currency will be required to give the customer the choice of paying in rubles or in hard currency for the goods, labor, or services they offer. Each enterprise will determine the relationship between its currency and ruble prices.

According to the Central Bank's new instructions, enterprises which were licensed by the USSR State Bank or the Bank of Russia before July 1, 1992, must re-register, free of charge, at the Central Bank's main territorial departments before March 1, 1993 (in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the date was extended to April 1, 1993).

According to Interfax information, the Central Bank plans to stick to its course toward eliminating foreign currency from circulation on Russian Federation territory, although it feels that all the conditions for doing so are not yet established.

Therefore, the new procedures for resale currency transactions being established by the Central Bank are a compromise between the practices which currently exist and the demand of the Congress of People's Deputies to completely ban currency transactions on the territory of the Russian Federation after March 1, 1993.

Fedorov Discusses Economic Reforms

LD2401225593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Studio interview with Russian Vice Premier Boris Grigoriyevich Fedorov by Yevgeniy Kiselev on 24 January; from the "Itogi" newscast—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Kiselev] [passage omitted] Boris Grigoriyevich, how did you get into politics at all?

[Fedorov] It is very difficult for me to find now all of the reasons why things turned out as they did. What happened was that several people proposed at the same time, in July 1990, that I come and try it out. At that time the method was that there was a psychological commission. There were many candidates. They attended it. I attended this commission...

[Kiselev, interrupting] You mean the psychological commission?

[Fedorov] Yes. Quite a large group of psychologists sat on it. They spent a long time testing me. I don't know what verdict they pronounced but the outcome was that I was offered the post of finance minister.

[Kiselev] You were then a member of Yavlinskiy's team, a team which carried out—to be more precise—tried to implement the 500-days program, which is now a legend in our recent economic history.

[Fedorov] Actually there were only two people concerned with the 500-days program in the government economic bloc—Yavlinskiy and I. There were no other people in the economic bloc at that time who were of such a reform-minded persuasion.

[Kiselev] If I am correct, you resigned after about six months.

[Fedorov] Exactly six months.

[Kiselev] And the reason was that it became obvious to you, as to Yavlinskiy a little before you, that the 500-days program could not be implemented in a specific political setting.

[Fedorov] It was not so much a question of the 500-days program as of implementing specific economic policies. I was forced to take a number of decisions with which I fundamentally disagreed, and this led to my resignation.

[Kiselev] Later came the period when you worked abroad within international financial establishments—the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development—and during the last few months before your appointment to Chernomyrdin's government, you were the executive director of the World Bank from Russia. Is that correct?

[Fedorov] It is correct.

[Kiselev] Who proposed that you join Chernomyrdin's government?

[Fedorov] My first conversation specifically on this matter was with Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin].

[Kiselev] Did you agree immediately?

[Fedorov] Well, it was unexpected, because I was actually in Moscow on a short business trip. Obviously, however, almost immediately after he had explained why it was necessary.

[Kiselev] Do you see yourself as Yegor Timurovich's successor?

[Fedorov] I would not describe myself as his successor, as the situation was somewhat different, but I intend to try and continue that course as I see it to the best of my strength and abilities, to improve it and do everything possible.

[Kiselev] Boris Grigoryevich, how can one explain the fact that deputies of the Supreme Soviet, among whom there are quite educated economists, doctors of economic sciences, professors from economic higher educational establishments, still make absolutely anti-market decisions which wipe out the results of the Government's work—and not of the Government which they disliked so much, the government of Gaydar, but your new government—but the government of Chernomyrdin, for whom they voted at the Congress. Let's take, for instance, the latest decision on virtually doubling pensions. In fact this decision, though it might please some very much because it looks so humane, leads to just winding up the inflationary spiral. Roughly speaking, a gap of 10 trillion roubles is appearing in the budget, and as far as I understand it is possible to patch it up only by issuing money, that is having the printing press working flat out.

[Fedorov] You are absolutely right to put the question. True, the decision is purely political. Its aspiration to help people to raise their standard of living is quite understandable. From the viewpoint of the economy it is absolutely uncalculated, and it is not based on any computations. It is not entirely true to say that all of it is coming directly out of the budget, as there is the pension fund. But as pensions influence wages in the budget financed sectors, in principle, the result is just as you say. We shall need to print 100,000 rubles notes, and so on and so forth.

Why do we keep on fighting between ourselves? Why don't we together, let's say, with the Parliament and the Central Bank, do what is quite obvious? There is no need to invent anything, there is no special third or tenth way for Russia to develop. There is common sense, there is pragmatism, and there are specific decisions. There are laws.

If, as many suggest these days, we lower the ruble rate and make it not 50 but 100, that may look good on paper, but what will it change? Will life become better, or will your wages increase, or will something else happen? Or if we fix prices will there be more goods because of it, more stability? The experience of the countries with hyperinflation and a high rate of inflation suggests that the main mass of the population will become poorer and poorer. We are pushing ourselves into an impasse. At present there are many discussions about another action being prepared in Parliament—this is the law that labor collectives will be granted a range of incentives in the privatization of enterprises, which may in fact reduce to nought, in particular devalue the rate of vouchers and so on—the idea developed by the Government.

Those who propose formulae where everything is simply to be given up—this is in fact what it boils down to—should consider what happens with these enterprises once they are in the hands of the collective. In the European Bank I dealt with an investment project—there were roughly 30 new enterprises over 18 months—and I saw how all this develops. The enterprise where, let's say, the workers don't have the money for investments—and you understand, in conditions of inflation no one will give them credits for investments either—they get these antediluvian factories often with rotting equipment, sometimes in a catastrophic state, and so there is no quality of production, delivery delays, and so on. What will this collective do that is new at this enterprise in order to become satisfied, happy, and to receive dividends on these shares, say, of the joint stock company? In my view this is mockery writ large.

People are driven into this system—go on, take it all—and are then thrown into production, and it is quite possible that we will find ourselves in a situation where, formally, we have given up almost everything but the result is zero. I would like to draw this to the attention of respected members of Parliament, too.

[Kiselev] There has been much talk this week that disagreements allegedly remain within the Government between the vice premiers over the approach to the problem of the state regulation of prices.

[Fedorov] There are different viewpoints, of course. They are discussed fairly heatedly at meetings of the government, and so on. But I think that this is basically the internal business of the government. At present the government is united in its decisions. In my view Shumeyko was completely a marketeer. And, insofar as I have spoken with him, there has never been any contradictions.

[Kiselev] And Khizha?

[Fedorov] I have known Khizha as an industrialist for a long time. I was with him at Svetlana [not further identified]. We cooperated together on investment projects. However, perhaps there are disagreements between us on specific aspects. But this does not mean that a person is against reforms, or that we have some kind of conflict, and so on. We are cooperating together with the premier. So all the recent talks and discussions and so on confirm that he intends firmly to act on the path of transition to the market. Right now there is no kind of crisis, that is absolutely clear cut. What happens next of course, only time will tell. I think that varied life experience is extremely necessary for any government.

If you remember, 18 million people were members of the CPSU. This does not mean that all of them should immediately leave the state apparatus. I think that every person should be used where he belongs. If a man cannot adapt to new conditions or does not meet the needs of the day, he should leave. If a man manages to find strength—and there are dozens of examples—let's say directors of enterprises who practically in a few months' time, say from November 1991 to May 1992, were transformed into different people, they can live in the market conditions. These people should be respected and we should work with them. They are our people. This is our country. No one will give us a different people.

[Kiselev] Well, all that remains is to wish you success, Boris Grigoryevich.

Soyuz TM-16 Launched; Cosmonauts 'Feeling Well'

LD2401064193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0630 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Mission Control Centre January 24 (TASS)—A Soyuz TM-16 spaceship was launched from Baykonur cosmodrome at 08.58 [0558 GMT] today with cosmonauts Gennadiy Manakov and Aleksandr Poleshchuk on board.

Following the spaceship's docking with the orbital complex Mir, they are to replace the crew of the 12th main expedition—anatoliy Solovyov and Sergey Avdeyev who have been working in orbit since July 27, last year.

The flight is proceeding normally and the cosmonauts are feeling well, a spokesman at the Mission Control Centre told ITAR-TASS.

Supreme Soviet

Parliamentary Chambers Hold Joint Session

LD2201214693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1743 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 22 ITAR-TASS—Both chambers of the Russian bicameral parliament met in a joint session today with Deputy Chairman Yuriy Voronin presiding over the session.

The press centre of the Russian Parliament reports that the morning session was devoted to reviewing the Russian Federation bill "on military duty and military service" returned by the Russian president. The parliament also discussed amendments to the bill "on pensions to servicemen, the command and rank and file servicemen with the interior affairs bodies and their families." After a prolonged discussion, both bills were rejected because they were found to be insufficiently prepared by the parliament's standing committees. The parliament decided to resume discussion next week.

Heated debates were evoked by the discussion of the bill "on state protection of the supreme representative bodies of state power" introduced in first reading by Mr. Korovnikov, chairman of the Veteran Affairs Committee. Parliament set up a working group and instructed it to edit new amendments and submit the final version to the parliament.

The afternoon session began with the election of the new chairman of the parliament Mass Media Committee. Vladimir Lisin was elected by a majority.

After that the parliament introduced specifications into the fundamentals of forest legislation and approved the fundamentals as a whole, as well as a resolution on the procedure for enacting them.

The parliament then reviewed the bill "on the status of servicemen, legal and social guarantees to citizens dismissed from military service and members of their families" also returned by the president of the Russian Federation. The law was then approved along with the resolution on its enforcement.

Deputies Reject Draft Law on Forming Supreme Soviet Guard

LD2301112193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0930 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Russia's Parliament has turned down the proposal by its leadership to form a special department for guarding the Supreme Soviet, a department subordinated directly to the Presidium and independent of the Internal Affairs Ministry. A draft law to this effect had been prepared on the instructions of Ruslan Khasbulatov, but this initiative had the support of only 41 percent of the deputies.

Supreme Soviet Presidium To Take Up Privatization Program

OW2501110593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its Monday [25 January] session the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet will consider a draft of the state privatization program for 1993 and a bill on privatization vouchers presented by Boris Yeltsin.

Then the draft of the state program is expected to be sent to the parliament's committees and commissions. The Supreme Soviet told INTERFAX that parliamentary hearings would be held only after discussions scheduled for Monday.

The discussion of the resolution on the Federal Information Center previously scheduled for Monday was postponed till Tuesday, at 10 o'clock in the morning; the resolution will be considered at the session of the parliamentary commission on legislature.

Presidium Move To Control Press Subsidies Seen

MK2201161693 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Yuliya Khaytina report: "Presidium in Role of Chief Censor? Let Us Hit the Disobedient Press in the Pocket"]

[Text] A few days ago an extremely curious document appeared in our own parliament—the Russian Supreme Soviet draft decree on amendments to the same Supreme Soviet's decree "On Economic Support and Legal Backup for Mass Media Activity."

The identity of the draft's author is a mystery. All we can do is guess who could have thought up the idea of taking away the Press and Information Ministry's right to determine the sizes of subsidies to specific publications and handing it over to...the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The draft is signed by two well-known people: Nikolay Ryabov, the current first deputy speaker, who instructed that the document be submitted to the Russian Supreme Soviet session for consideration, and it is rubber-stamped by Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Plans, Taxes, the Budget, and Prices. The latter intends to defend the draft during its examination in parliament today.

Another fact concerning this situation is of interest—the draft "surfaced" unexpectedly for both the Press Ministry and its anonymous authors' closest colleagues—the Supreme Soviet's Mass Media Committee.

Igor Yeremin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet press subcommittee, who was—to put it mildly—slightly surprised by the unusual document's public appearance, surmises that the inspiration behind it could be Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov himself. Possibly, let me personally add, the new first deputy is thereby showing loyalty to his immediate boss in return for the trust placed in him.

The idea of anonymous authors, it is true, contradicts the existing Constitution: The Presidium does not have the right to disburse budget resources specifically. This right belongs to ministries—within the framework of the funds allocated to their sectors.

But if the Constitution is being ignored, why for the sake of fairness should the omnipresent Presidium not set about distributing other budget appropriations as well—to specific enterprises, hospitals, cultural "centers," and such like?

The system of subsidies for publications has been very carefully elaborated. Moreover, subsidies are allocated on the basis of these publications' requests under a special system: Priority is given to children's, cultural and educational, and youth mass media. And only for expenditure on paper and printing services, while the journalists' collective does not receive anything. The Press Ministry has two entire special administrations that deal with this.... "By the way, there are no complaints and no grounds for distrust. Ultimately the Press Ministry's activity could be checked out if there are any doubts...", Yeremin says in astonishment.

But what is behind all this is quite clear. Is it really surprising that parliament's top echelon wants to get a financial hold over at least those publications that cannot get by without subsidies? (Incidentally, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has never requested or received them.) Because some way must be found to fight the "rampant press" if neither the Mass Media Committee nor the Press Ministry are capable of doing so.

Constitution Commission Deputy Chairman Interviewed

LD1601102093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Interview with Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of Supreme Soviet Constitutional Commission, by People's Deputy Sergey Nosovets; place and date not given; from the "Parliamentary Herald" program—recorded]

[Text] [Nosovets] Good evening. I believe that every one of you realizes that the work of the Supreme Soviet session that has just begun was defined to a considerable extent by the decisions of the last congress, including, first and foremost, the congress' decision on the forthcoming referendum. How are preparations of the draft text of the main provisions of the new constitution, the ones which are going to be put to the referendum, going? In what atmosphere is the agreeing—or preparation for the agreeing—of this text between the Supreme Soviet, the president, and the Constitutional Court proceeding? I think this interests all of you because each of us will take part in this referendum. Nikolay Timofeyevich, as

deputy chairman of the Constitutional Commission you are taking a direct part in this process and, to some extent, determining it. I am aware that this work has only just begun, but what can you say about it thus far?

[Ryabov] I think viewers are aware of the Congress's decision. A referendum will be held on 11 April 1993, but this is not a referendum on the Constitution as a whole. That would be impossible.

[Nosovets] Yes. It's about the main provisions.

[Ryabov] It's a referendum on the main provisions of the Constitution and the people will express their views, their attitude to these. This is an extremely important event, and I think not just politically. In our view, this is an event which will have a huge impact on the statehood of the Russian Federation. Naturally, preparations for it must be carried out in an extremely serious way. If we do all the preparation here in Moscow, within a narrow circle, we will not get a proper result. Yesterday, for instance, a working meeting of the Constitutional Commission was held. It discussed the things that need to be done to prepare the draft text of the main provisions. It outlined a whole range of measures based on the involvement of scholarly forces in the Russian Federation. Proposals along these lines have already been circulated to many universities and scientific centers in the Russian Federation.

This is only the initial stage, the preparatory stage. Unless the components of the Federation—the republics belonging to the Russian Federation, the krays and oblasts—are drawn into this work, unless the supreme soviets and oblast and kray soviets discuss and express their views on this rough draft of the text, no progress will be made. We must hammer out this document jointly. Only if this happens will we be able to work on it here, agreeing on a final version with the president and Constitutional Court as laid down in the decision of the 7th Congress. Only then can it be endorsed at the Supreme Soviet and presented to our people for their verdict. All this immensely complex work must be completed, I think, no later than 10 March—or 15 March at the very latest—so that the people have access to the published text, not on 31 March, as stipulated in the decision.

[Nosovets] It must be made available before 31 March?

[Ryabov] Before 31 March, yes. It ought to be available for comprehensive discussion for at least a month, from 10 March to 11 April—or from 15 March to 11 April. We must measure every word, every clause, every article against our life, against the life of our children and grandchildren. Only then, with full awareness of what we are doing, can we go to the polls and cast our votes.

[Nosovets] Nikolay Timofeyevich, the decision says that the text must be agreed with the president and the Constitutional Court. It's probably worth reminding ourselves of this once again. What is the procedure for reaching such agreement?

[Ryabov] If we go by the book, in other words prepare the text, then agree on it with the president and the Constitutional Court prior to endorsing it once and for all, we won't have one single document. We may well end up with three different approaches to one and the same problem. Therefore, initially, there must be a working group that will process and analyze the proposals of scholarly institutions, as well as proposals from the president, the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Soviet, and the Constitutional Commission. This working group must consist of people who will be nominated by the president, who will be nominated by the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Soviet, and by the components of the federation. Only if that happens can we hope to offer our people a text of the basic provisions devoid of alternatives—or with the minimum number of alternatives.

In this connection, I want to mention the allegations being made at the moment in certain sections of the mass media, the claims that the president has already set up certain groups and that these groups are making what almost amount to clandestine preparations for the referendum, and that the same thing is going on in other quarters. Such allegations are absolutely without substance. No, the preparations being made at the moment are open and honest, aimed at genuine stabilization of the constitutional system in the Russian Federation. All three arms of power are taking part in this work.

[Nosovets] No doubt it is all the more important to note that, as far as the Supreme Soviet and deputies in general are concerned, this work is not starting from scratch. Our Constitutional Commission already has substantial experience. Some sort of basis already exists.

[Ryabov] The Constitutional Commission does have experience. They have already proposed their version of the text. But if we rely solely on the Constitutional Commission, I fear that we may not arrive at a positive result. The experience and scholarly potential of the Constitutional Commission must be utilized. It must take part in the work. But this should only be one element in the overall arrangements for preparing the text. Do you see what I'm getting at?

[Nosovets] Well, as a member of the Supreme Soviet, as somebody who also has to vote, it goes without saying that I don't want alternative wordings entered on voting slips. But this is the procedure stipulated in the Congress decision if the president or the Supreme Soviet fails to reach agreement. You and I, when we attended the Congress, made allowances, in principle, for such a possibility. So, what are the constitutional issues on which the Supreme Soviet and the president...

[Ryabov, interrupting] ...and the Constitutional Court...

[Nosovets, continuing] ...and the Constitutional Court—what are the issues on which, in the end, they might not agree?

[Ryabov] I don't want to make predictions. I want to get my bearings straight and work on the things that I have been explaining to you.

[Nosovets] I also want to do this, Nikolay Timofeyevich, but...

[Ryabov, interrupting] I can visualize the text—which, incidentally, was discussed by the Constitutional Commission yesterday—I can visualize it absolutely clearly. The individual must be able to give an unequivocal and clear-cut answer to it, to say yes or no. There must be no empty phrases there. There must be no ambiguities. There must be no dualism or double-meaning. Do you see what I mean? After all, these are constitutional principles that we will be voting on. Therefore, I regard this as a colossally important task. We must encapsulate all the essential meaning of our society, our future vision of it, in a direct and simple sentence everybody can understand. Do you see?

[Nosovets] When I asked you that question, I was thinking—as you no doubt realize—of our voting experience at the Congress and, indeed, the Supreme Soviet. I have in mind, for instance, the article on forms of ownership. The Congress has one view of this, the president a different one.

[Ryabov] I don't think that this question will give rise to any disagreement. A variety of forms of ownership, ranging from private ownership to state ownership, are recognized in our country. I don't think there is any dispute about that nowadays. Nobody, I think, will be saying that there should either be state ownership or private ownership. We need both.

[Nosovets] Do I in fact have the right to use and dispose of property?

[Ryabov] Even if we phrase the question the way you, for instance, suggest: Should the citizen be entitled to possess, use and dispose of property?—this won't change anything. In any society, in any state, the right to property presupposes that society or the state are entitled to establish their own special regulations over the possession, use and disposal of various assets. So, this is not a question for the Constitution. This is a question for day-to-day legislation in respect of various things.

As far as the right of private ownership is concerned, this question has, generally speaking, been resolved without any bother and already accepted by society. The important thing is that there shouldn't solely be private ownership, there shouldn't solely be...[changes tack] But that's another question. Everybody is anxious about this, because there must be balance, there must be a blend. That's how life is anyway. We shouldn't make some artificial arrangement, should we? I don't think that there will be any problem in this respect.

Consider another question, whether all components of the federation—in other words, oblasts or republics—have equal or unequal status. This is a very complex question. Some very serious work will have to be done on this.

[Nosovets] Well, let's hope that a consensus really can be reached. I think we ought to remind ourselves yet again of how the constitutional process will go on to develop in future. So, although we may be anticipating events a bit, let's suppose that the referendum has already been held and the outcome is positive. What's happens next? Will there be a Congress?

[Ryabov] The constitutional process is not solely confined to the adoption of the federal constitution. Constitutional processes are also underway in the republics. Let's not forget, either, that there are constitutional processes taking place in krays and oblasts, the ones where state enactments—constitutions of a sort—are being adopted. These are basic provisions that regulate life in this or that kray or oblast. So, this is a complex process, a complex interdependence, a complex system of constitutional arrangements that influence each other.

Under the referenda law the basic provisions endorsed in a referendum are binding. They don't need any further endorsement and—under the existing referenda law, I repeat—they must be directly incorporated in the text of the new Constitution. These basic provisions will, naturally, also be the basis of those special articles in the Constitution on ownership, the individual, society, the state, bodies of power and administration, and so on.

Then comes the home stretch, the adoption of the Constitution. Who, the question arises, should adopt it? Who should adopt the Constitution? There are many different views on this.

[Nosovets] Under the existing Constitution, the Congress is supposed to adopt it.

[Ryabov] Yes, but some people are suggesting some kind of Constituent Assembly, an Electoral College, and other things of that nature. This would only be possible if we didn't have constitutionally legitimate bodies like the Congress and if the articles of the existing Constitution had been amended. Article 4, clause 1, makes it quite clear that Congress alone has the power to adopt a new Constitution. I am profoundly certain—and I wish to stress this—that the existing Congress, the present composition of the Congress of People's Deputies, has the power, on the basis of a referendum, to adopt the new Constitution. I state this quite authoritatively.

[Nosovets] We have a special responsibility...

[Ryabov, interrupting] It is the people who will give it this mandate by adopting the main provisions of this Constitution.

[Nosovets] Well, thank you, Nikolay Timofeyevich. As you viewers are aware, the process will be very complex and very exhausting. But this is not merely our legitimate and lawful right, but also, first and foremost, an obligation that you, the people, have entrusted to us. It is up to you to choose on 11 April.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Comments on Return From Minsk Summit

LD2301172593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk refrained from approving the draft CIS charter at the Minsk meeting of heads of state and government of member countries of the Commonwealth on 22 January. [passage omitted] The Ukrainian delegation returned from Minsk to Kiev on the evening of 22 January.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] President Leonid Kravchuk, Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, and Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, gave an interview to journalists at Borispol Airport in the capital of Ukraine.

[Begin recording] [Kravchuk] What is important is that 25 documents were signed today. Nineteen of them were economic documents. I want to emphasize that all the time we held such meetings, documents of—let us say—a general nature predominated, or military documents. Although we understand the importance of this problem, today the economy is at the heart of everything. Nineteen documents, I emphasize, were adopted on economic issues. This is the first and the second thing, that Ukraine signed all of them, all 19 economic documents. [sentence as heard] This means that our Commonwealth has understood that the main thing is the economy. Second, that we managed to agree on (?this) acute problem, which relates to the charter. Although Ukraine, and Moldova as well, have not signed the charter today, this charter, then...

[Unidentified voice, interrupting] ...and Turkmenistan.

[Kravchuk, continuing] ...and, yes. And because we have grounds for this. I spoke about this openly at the session: from our point of view the document is not ready to be signed, it does not have a whole package of explanations and additions—which can be seen in the document itself—so that it is clear what we are signing. Well, that is why we did not sign. But everyone signed the statement, which Ukraine prepared, and Ukraine submitted—and they agreed with it—the statement that contains the principle clauses regarding the CIS. First, that the CIS, over the time of, as we say, its work, its existence, has shown that this is a structure that can work, and that there has not been one mistake, as some want to regard it, that the CIS is some kind of divergence from some kind of general movements of the people. Then this was salvation from that confrontational process that could have arisen if there had been no CIS. We have confirmed that the CIS should improve itself, both economically and politically [word indistinct] and we have confirmed that the main thing today is the economy, and that all barriers now on the path of economic integration, of an economic community, need to be lifted. Ukraine has again stated that it wants economic integration. Incidentally, we submitted two documents—a charter [khartiya] and the principles of economic cooperation—and they have been (?included in) the protocol. In this way Ukraine has not come empty-handed, but first, with a (?position), and second, with documents.

And the very main thing is that the attitude of all of the other states to the charter is not identical—that this is already something that is the highest, something that is the biggest, and there is now no need to search for anything else. But instead they produced a, well, a soft version, so that the charter is open for signing. And whoever will develop into this, then he will enter the charter. If the charter does not develop sufficiently, then perhaps there will be something else. But this, and this is also very important, that (?whether) there is the signature of Ukraine, and also of others, beneath the charter, or whether it is not there, the essence of the CIS does not change. And Ukraine remains in the CIS, the same as other states.

Another thing is that other states will not have any sanctions, limitations, or advantages in any sphere in comparison with Ukraine. Bilateral agreements are in operation. Agreements are operating within the framework of the CIS. The CIS is working. I would like you to stress this especially, because it will start tomorrow: Oh, Ukraine did not sign, or (?rather, they) did not sign, and Ukraine's special point of view. The matter is not a special point of view. The charter (?is also a search) to improve the work of the CIS, a search to improve the work of the CIS, and not a stagnant formula, which is once and for all. We, for example, proposed other versions as well, and they are possible too.

Time is needed to say exactly whether it works or doesn't work. But Ukraine has not been demolishing the CIS, and will not demolish it. It will take practical steps towards integration in the economy and will take practical steps in order to cooperate reciprocally with other states. [end recording]

Further Comment on Summit

OW2301141393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Upon returning from Minsk Friday [22 January] evening, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at Kiev airport that the Commonwealth republics had realized they were to assign chief priority to economic issues. The President felt agreement had been reached in Minsk on the controversial problem of Commonwealth charter.

Kravchuk felt the Charter was not ready to be signed because it had neither explanatory supplements nor rider materials. It was essential, said Kravchuk, that all the participants in the Minsk conference had signed a Ukraine-sponsored declaration which outlined an

approach to the Commonwealth of Independent States. As regards the Commonwealth's Charter, the summit opened it for signing by opting for a soft approach to the matter. Kravchuk felt that regardless of whether Ukraine or other republics sign or don't sign the Charter, the Commonwealth would not change.

The Ukrainian President felt Commonwealth structures can and must work. In his view, the Commonwealth of Independent States must upgrade its economies and political structures.

Kravchuk said Ukraine had reaffirmed its commitment to the idea of economic integratgon. The protocol of the Minsk summit incorporated two documents drafted by Ukraine—the declaration of basic principles and the principles of economic cooperation.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma told newsmen the Minsk summit highlighted an unprecedented consensus on economic matters. Commonwealth Prime Ministers saw eye to eye on economic matters.

In Kuchma's view, the summit had brought the Commonwealth leaders to realize that once the political foundation for economic cooperation had been restored, industrial managers and entrepreneurs would take care of the rest.

Official Comments on Nuclear Forces

LD2401181593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] The issue of national ownership of the CIS's strategic nuclear forces remains open even after the Minsk summit, Ivan Byzhan, Ukrainian first deputy defense minister, told ITAR-TASS. He noted that there were no grounds for declaring strategic nuclear forces deployed on Ukrainian territory Russian property. Ivan Byzhan emphasized that the Lisbon protocol states that CIS states on whose territory nuclear weapons are located become equal successors to the treaty on reducing strategic offensive weapons.

Further on 'Erroneous' Attack on Ukrainian Brigade

'Closed Incident'

LD2201141393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1310 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jan—The Ukrainian military has no complaints about Black Sea Fleet marines. The erroneous assault by the reconnaissance and sabotage subunit of the marines of the Fleet's coastal troops on an antiaircraft battalion of a Ukrainian air defense brigade should be regarded as a closed incident. This was announced at a meeting of brigade commanders of the Fleet marines and the Ukrainian air defense forces today, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Black Sea Fleet press center.

As has been reported, in the course of a scheduled combat exercise last night, marine reconnaissance officers, owing to their commander's inexperience, confused adjacent military installations but, having spotted this, withdrew immediately.

Navy Issues Statement

LD2301101493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] On 22 January, the press service of the Ukrainian Navy circulated a statement regarding an incident that occurred on the cape of Fiolent in Crimea on 21 January.

A reconnaissance diversionary sub-unit of the marine infantry of beach troops of the Black Sea Fleet carried out an armed attack on the anti-aircraft missile battalion of an air defense brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The press center of the Black Sea Fleet described this attack as a mistake, which occurred during the course of training. The statement of the press center of the Ukrainian Navy indicates that the attack was accompanied by shooting from automatic weapons with blank cartridges and battle noise simulators being thrown onto the territory of the anti-aircraft missile battalion.

Only the composure of Colonel (Aleksandr Milchenko), commander of the unit, who gave the order not to open fire, made it possible to avoid a tragedy. The press center stated that the command and all of the personnel of the naval forces of Ukraine resolutely protest such actions.

Official Discusses Revamp of Forces, Nuclear Status

OW2501082693 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Report by V. Lyashko from the "Utro" program]

[Text] [Lyashko] The Ukrainian National Army is conducting a series of exercises during which new principles of military doctrine of the independent state are being worked out. These exercises, which are the first of their kind, are being held on the basis of the former Transcaucasus Military District. Georgiy Zhivitsa, first deputy defense minister of the Ukraine, participated in the exercise and held a news conference for Ukrainian and foreign correspondents.

[Begin recording] [Zhivitsa] The Ukraine has adopted a new concept that calls for the building of armed forces along entirely different lines. We want to have a smaller force that will guarantee the defense of our internal [as heard] borders. I [words indistinct] the development of the concept of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. We are creating an operational command instead of a district

command. We are reducing the number of divisions, and we are changing them from offensive to defensive in nature. We will give up motorized infantry and tank divisions, and instead we will create mechanized divisions, infantry divisions, and (?mountain) infantry brigades. We also want to increase the amount of defensive weapons in divisions and [words indistinct] troops, as well as reduce the amount of defensive weapons.

[Unidentified reporter] There is a lot of talk in the West about the Ukraine's nuclear status. What is the view on this today?

[Zhivitsa] Whose view?

[Reporter] The view of the government and the Ministry of Defense.

[Zhivitsa] Well the Ukraine has no nuclear status. The Ukraine has no fission technology, and it cannot be considered a nuclear power. As you know, U.S. nuclear forces have been stationed on the territory of the FRG for a long time. Germany, however, has never declared itself to be a nuclear power. Therefore, how can the Ukraine declare itself to be one when it has no such technology? The Ukraine does not command the nuclear weapons stationed on its territory. It just controls their non-use, disassembly, and reduction. This is called "administrative control." [end recording]

Western, Russian Expertise Wanted at New Weapons Factory

LD2201223393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1845 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Irina Ivanova]

[Text] Kiev January 22 TASS—Ukraine is inviting foreign investors to contribute modern Western technologies and equipment and Russian arms-makers from Tula to contribute their expertise to begin production of firearms at a new factory to be established on the basis of the machine-building plant in Zhulyany, according to general director of the Myslivtsia trading house.

Myslivitsa, which represents a joint American-enterprise in Ukraine, has organised a permanent exhibition-sale of hunting rifles in Kiev where firearms from Tula are on view along with the products of the world-famous Western gun-makers Winchester and Browning of the United States and Ricini of Italy.

U.S. Delegation To Study Investment Possibilities

LD2501115293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev January 25—Representatives of the American Government corporation to assist American investors, "Oris", arrived in Ukraine Monday [25 January]. The purpose of the trip, which will last until February 7, is to analyse the investment climate in Ukraine and to prepare a possible investment mission with representatives of up to 30 American companies this spring. Oris's representatives will meet with Ukrainian Government, financial, and business leaders in Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, Dnepropetrovsk, and Lvov.

The trip is under the patronage of the United States Embassy in Ukraine.

Kuchma, Germany's Kohl Discuss Contracts by Telephone

AU2201201093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Yesterday, a telephone conversation took place between Prime Minister L. Kuchma and FRG Chancellor H. Kohl. They discussed questions of accelerating the implementation of two contracts between the association "Ukrfarmatsiya" and the corresponding German firm for resolving problems that are extremely important for Ukraine and that are meant for providing Ukraine with medicines. L. Kuchma also expressed a request to promote deliveries from Germany to Ukraine of various types of equipment, spare parts, and goods for industry, transport, medicine, communal services, and the agro-industrial complex.

Zlenko, Japanese Official Praise Opening of Embassy

AU2201212393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] At Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday, A. Zlenko, head of the Ukrainian external political department, received Mr. Tatsuhiko Kasai, Japan's temporary charge d'affaires in Ukraine. A. Zlenko congratulated the Japanese diplomat on the beginning of the activity of the Japanese Embassy in Ukraine and stressed the significance for Ukraine of developing ties with such an industrially developed country of the world. Mr. Kasai handed A. Zlenko a personal message from Mr. Michio Watanabe, Japan's vice prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, in which it is pointed out that Japan regards the opening of its embassy in Ukraine as a step that will promote further development of many-sided relations between the two states.

National Affairs

Black Sea Fleet Officers Seize Izmail Garrison Depot

LD2301090493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] A report from Sevastopol: Tension is growing in the Izmail garrison. A group of armed officers and

warrant officers, who earlier had taken an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, a few days ago seized depot 375 of the Black Sea Fleet.

Kuchma on Measures to Prevent Economic Collapse

LD2401232493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian, in its "Itogi" program at 1900 GMT on 24 January, carries a 2.5-minute roundup by correspondent Tkachenko on this week's Ukrainian news, including the latest parliamentary disagreements.

Tkachenko says that Premier Leonid Kuchma's speech was, as usual, harsh. Having pointed out that the new Ukrainian state is much better at symbolic gestures than at producing Ukrainian sausage, Kuchma said that the Ukraine does not yet exist as a single economic entity. Only a stringent budgetary policy, privatization, land reform, structural transformation of industries, and a policy of national accord, in short the course taken by the government, will save the country from social conflicts and the collapse of the economy.

In a brief recorded interview with the correspondent, Kuchma says: "At present I can see no way other than the one adopted by the governemnt. In order to contain inflation in the future, although inflationary processes do exist, we decided to take such popular measures as the liberalization of prices, and on the other hand, the freezing of wages."

Tkachenko concludes by saying that in present conditions it is in Moscow's interests to support Ukrainian reformers, because instability in Ukraine poses negative effects on Russia itself.

Rukh Considers Resuming Campaign To Dissolve Parliament

OW2401134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Ukraine the leadership of the popular movement Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka] is considering the possibility of resuming its campaign to collect signatures in favor of a referendum on the dissolution of Ukraine's parliament and early parliamentary elections. As Rukh's press service said in Kiev on Sunday [24 January], this was discussed on Saturday by the leadership of Ukraine's biggest politico-public organization at the session designed to work out a plan of actions in 1993. The exact date of resuming the campaign will be fixed in the near future.

Last year Rukh, together with several political allies, managed to collect slightly more than one million signatures in favor of a referendum on dissoling the parliament. In the meantime the bill on referendums provides for collecting no less than 3 million signatures.

According to the press service, Rukh's plans also include the holding of public hearings on the criminal activity of the CPSU and Ukraine's Communist Party in all areas, and "actions against the dominance of mafia structures".

Rukh Proposes Anti-Communist, Anti-Imperial Front

LD2501105593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] To set up an all-Ukrainian anti-Communist and anti-imperial front—such is the initiative forwarded by the People's Movement of Ukraine, Rukh. In the view of its leaders, this has been evoked by the threat of the revival of the Communist Party. Expressed in the appeal of the central leadership of Rukh is support to the policy of the new government in its struggle against the mafia, corruption, bribery, plundering and the selling out of our state. It is also proposed to hold a joint sitting in the near future with representatives of leading bodies of political parties and public organizations of Ukraine which have a democratic trend.

Protesters Demand Removal of Mission From Sevastopol

OW2401171693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [24 January], about a thousand demonstrators gathered in Sevastopol on the initiative of the Republican Movement of the Crimea to demand that the Ukrainian president's mission be removed from the city. Aleksandr Kruglov, a leader of this movement and a deputy of the Crimean parliament, told the meeting that the population of Sevastopol is actually in a state of psychological war with the Ukrainian leaders. Other speakers proposed urging the Russian parliament to put Sevastopol under Russia's jurisdiction.

Crimean Congress Discusses Opposition to Pro-Russian Forces

LD2501101893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] A congress of the Civic Forum of Crimea has taken place in Simferopol. This civic-political association speaks for preserving the current status of the republic of Crimea. The press center of the Crimea with Ukraine association reports that participants in the congress discussed trends in the development of political processes on the peninsula, and also the issue of preparing for the next elections, and the form of counteraction to leftist and pro-Russia forces. Additionally, some changes were brought into the Civic Forum statute. And the removal of local leaders of political parties and organizations from the leading bodies of the association was also approved.

Presidential Representation Law in Crimea Adopted

LD2201231593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1920 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev January 22 TASS—A representation of the Ukrainian president in the Republic of Crimea has been established to be a body of Ukrainian state executive power and enjoy powers envisaged by the Ukrainian Constitution and other legislative acts in the Republic of Crimea.

The representation shall be headed by a permanent representative of the Ukrainian president to be appointed to the post and relieved of his duties by the Ukrainian president.

Parliamentarian Appeals Against Renewal of Communist Party

AU2401221793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Jan 93 p 3

["Statement by the People's Council on the Restoration of the Communist Party in Ukraine" issued in Kiev; date not given]

[Text] We believe that today, as the young Ukrainian state is in the state of a deep economic crisis, it is not the right time for political confrontations. However, circumstances compel us to make this statement. Some of Ukraine's Supreme Council deputies from among the former party nomenklatura demand that the decree on banning Ukraine's Communist Party and the CPSU be canceled. In some regions, practical steps are being made to secure the renewal of the Communist Party activity. There is no doubt that this will be followed by attempts to return nationalized property to the Communist Party that was illicitly acquired by it at the expense of the labor of the entire people of Ukraine, and this will result in an escalation of tension in society and may lead to a social explosion. This is a well-known method that began to be put into practice in 1917: It is not the first time that Communists take advantage of the difficulties created by themselves. An undisguised demagogy has been unleashed: Communists who brought the country to economic collapse are putting the blame for all the present troubles upon their opponents in the democratic camp. However, it was precisely the Communist majority in the parliament that did not allow Fokin's anti-people government to be deposed in time, despite the fact that it was the government under which Ukraine was simply plundered.

Communists associate the restoration of the Communist Party in Ukraine with the restoration of the former Union. It is not accidental that the activity aimed at restoring the CPSU is being conducted concurrently and in a coordinated manner in all CIS states. This is yet another dangerous curve in our history, a curve that will inevitably lead to bloodshed. The communist system and empire can only survive with the help of coercion and bloody terror. This has always been the case everywhere.

Compatriots! Citizens of Ukraine!

Think long and hard about the abyss into which you are being pushed. The fairy tales about the "social justice" that Communists and Socialists allegedly profess are a deception, no matter how sweet they may sound. The transformation of Ukraine into a "communist preserve" would constitute a threat not only to our people, but also to the entire mankind. Never and in no land have Communists been able to ensure a normal life worthy of people. That is why any support for the restoration of the Communist Party and its nomenclatura in state and economic structures will tighten the noose on the neck of the people.

We call upon you:

—not to support the actions by Socialists, Communists, and all neocommunist forces in Ukraine;

—to direct your efforts for securing economic development of independent Ukraine;

—to make a decisive step to boost our people's widely known diligence and emerge from the social crisis, in particular, through decommunizing state structures and removing the camouflaged communist party nomenclatura—bribe-takers and thieves—from power.

Ivan Zayets, chairman of the People's Council at Ukraine's Supreme Council

Communist Party Appeals to Members in Chernigov Oblast

LD2501111493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] A group of former high-ranking Communist Party officials from Chernigov Oblast has made public an appeal to its fellow countrymen and members of the proscribed Communist Party. It is proposed that they work actively in primary organizations of the Association of Communists and in the Socialist Party, and that they demand the revocation of the prohibition on the Communist Party of Ukraine. This appeal was published on the front page of the Chernigov Oblast newspaper DESNYANSKA PRAVDA.

Kravchuk Interviewed on Combating Crime

WS2301200093 Kiev IMENEM ZAKONU in Ukrainian 4 Jan 93 p 2

[Interview with President Leonid Kravchuk by newspaper correspondent I. Levchenko: "Let the Most Sacred Thing Unite Us"]

[Text] [Levchenko] I understand your concern about the current crime situation in Ukraine. What are the president's priorities in this issue?

[Kravchuk] First of all it is organized crime. We have a bitter analysis of the situation in different ministries and oblasts of Ukraine. Officials and some representatives of the administration, taking advantage of the absence of

due control and possessing no moral restraints of their own, have been overtly selling Ukraine for dollars and bribes. This has become a real disaster. This is why combating organized crime is an immensely important task for the militia. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is considering this problem at today's board session. If the system is strengthened, responsibility and enhanced control will allow us to move from this stalemate. In the past, this department was under Moscow's jurisdiction. It did not coordinate its actions with Ukrainian organs and reported mainly to Moscow. The evaluation of its activity also depended on institutions outside Ukraine. From now on, the Ministerial Board will be controlling the work of the Department for Combating Organized Crime. The minister himself, along with the rest of the board, will be responsible for this field.

Today dozens of banks are being created in Ukraine, and firm control over their activity should also be established. We need more experts with the necessary skills to fight crime in the financial sphere.

One more thing. If there is a gap in the law or in someone's conscience, someone's soul, it is bound to become the ground for growing crime. People should understand that no administration will tolerate it.

I have held meetings with people and I know what bothers them. Empty shop shelves, high prices, and the like. But when they are asked what worries them most, the answer is always the same: "We worry about our lives, our property, which we have built up for years putting aside our scanty salaries. Criminals can come and rape, beat, and rob you." People are afraid to go out in the streets. This is why we must stand on guard for our citizens: the administration, the law, the militia, the national security, the prosecutor, the court, and the national guard. Nobody can stay away from it. This also means the protection of our statehood, because the increase in crime destabilizes the political situation.

[Levchenko] What are your feelings after the board session? You must have felt how seriously this state of things was treated by the minister and all those present at the final meeting.

[Kravchuk] I would put it this way: I was happy to hear both the minister's speech and the ensuing discussion, because I could see that militiamen did not demand anything extraordinary. They said: "Help us with the equipment, give us the necessary resources, because criminals are on the alert." To be able to combat them effectively we should be two steps ahead of them in everything.

Thus, the supply of materials and equipment, qualified personnel, and the law are the point. We are already taking care of these issues. The Council for National Security in the office of the president of Ukraine, has considered these questions. There is also the presidential decree that covers all of these problems. The Supreme Soviet has considered the situation in combating crime and has adopted the appropriate resolution. Now we must get down to work to carry out all the plans.

Let us recall the situation after the Civil and the Great Patriotic Wars in big cities. Criminals began to feel unpunishable. Then the state took extraordinary, even cruel measures. But there was no other way out, because people were losing faith in the administration's ability to do anything. We cannot let this happen today. The citizens of Ukraine should know that there exists a force able to overcome the evil. There is no society totally free of crime. But crime in general and uncontrolled crime are two different things. We cannot allow the latter exist.

[Levchenko] We would like to enter the coming 1993 with your belief and confidence.

[Kravchuk] In my speech today, I said that it was not going to be an easy year. But the nation has to live on. If we act together we can overcome every hardship. We cannot let one thing happen: we cannot allow strength to be lost. This is the most important thing.

[Levchenko] I think history cannot be reversed. I want us to finish this conversation on an optimistic note: I want to wish all the best in the coming year to Ukraine, its people, and its president.

[Kravchuk] Let us unite in the most sacred thing: the construction of our independence and our state for the people, for peace, happiness, and democracy.

Government Establishes Committee on Nuclear Power

LD2401151893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Problems with the further development of power engineering and atomic power engineering, in particular, have lately been exacerbated in Ukraine and worldwide. [passage omitted]

At the same time, atomic power engineering is an important component of the electric energy system, with 14 nuclear power blocks at present being connected to it in our country alone and having produced over 29 percent of Ukraine's electric power in the past year alone.

Taking this into consideration, the government has adopted a resolution concerning the functioning of the State Committee of Ukraine for the Use of Nuclear Power—or "DerzhKomAtom" [Derzhavnyy Komitet Ukrayiny Po Vykorystannyu Yadernoyi Enerhiyi]—which has just been established.

To improve the state system of managing and ensuring the effective and safe functioning of atomic power engineering facilities, this committee is responsible for performing tasks aimed at: meeting requirements of the national economy and population for electric and thermal power, reinforcing the safety of operation of atomic power stations, ensuring the proper handling of radioactive waste, and increasing the overall competitiveness of home atomic power engineering.

Belarus

Shushkevich Interviewed on Current Issues

LD2401173293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1220 GMT 24 Jan 93

[From the "Live Dialogue" program]

[Text] [Andrey Skryabin] Hello, esteemed viewers. Today you will be meeting the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus. Stanislav Stanislavovich Shushkevich is in the Minsk studio. Good day, Stanislav Stanislavovich. We are pleased to see you.

[Shushkevich] Hello.

[Skryabin] My colleagues are here at Ostankino. They are Lyudmila Telen, observer for the newspaper MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, and Yuliy Semenov, political observer for Radio Mayak. I am Andrey Skryabin, observer for Ostankino television. I wish to remind you that several lines are open to our studio here in Moscow. The code is 095 and the telephone number is 217-45-63. So, please call us and ask any questions that interest you to Stanislav Stanislavovich or to the panel itself.

So, let me start today's program with the first question. Just two days have passed since the meeting of the heads of state and government in Minsk. Stanislav Stanislavovich, what in your view is the main result of this meeting?

[Shushkevich] Well, I would like to mention several points. No doubt I will surprise you by what I'm going to say. You expect me to say that the main result was the charter. I personally consider that the main result—which accords with the interests of all CIS countries, without exception—was the setting up of the inter-state bank and the agreement on a formula for the work of this bank. I hope that this result will have a quicker impact than the others on the life of citizens in all countries of the CIS. If accounts are simplified, if trade—speaking frankly—and accounting are simplified, there ought to be a tangible improvement for everybody.

As for the overall outcome, you know, I'm simply happy that the meeting has finally taken place and that the swarm of prophets was wrong. They said it would be the last day of the CIS. So much for them! It is a festive and joyous day. That's how I would put it. We have made a splendid stride forward.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. But, you know, it is quite difficult for us journalists to cover those meetings which the CIS holds. We get rather little material. I think it is very good that Yuliy [Semenov], who has just arrived back from there, was able to take a closer look at all this. Yuliy, you have a question. Go ahead.

[Semenov] Stanislav Stanislavovich, as far as I am aware, the question of the inter-state bank, with which you began, was not actually the subject of lengthy or difficult debate. I understand that the most complex and, at times, heated discussion concerned the two-track political decision which was adopted. In other words, although only seven states signed the charter, they all adopted the declaration on it. I heard that you, the chairman, had your work cut out to steer this discussion in a constructive direction and bring about a decision. Could you tell us, if only briefly, what happened there?

[Shushkevich] It's all very simple. You are not absolutely correct on the first question. The interstate bank formula, the draft for it, was agreed on the last day, literally, before the meeting of the heads of state. It had appeared to be an absolutely insoluble question. Given Russia's gigantic capital—when compared with the capital available to the other states—how could one find a sensible form of administration, which would not turn the others into silent onlookers? But the formula was found. In other words, decisions will be taken by a two-thirds majority, but Russia will have 50 percent of the votes. This formula pleased everybody. So, the difficulties were all at the preparatory stage. At the meeting itself there were no difficulties at all. Agreement on the first issue was signed without further ado. It took just a few minutes.

As for the charter, I would say that there are differing internal conditions in the various states. So—but it was not difficult for me. We simply listened to direct, open explanations by the heads of state and everybody agreed that we should seek a solution which would suit everybody. Those states which had already resolved this question internally could go ahead and sign it. In the Republic of Belarus, for instance, we made it clear from the outset what our reservations were. We held a preliminary discussion of this question in the republic's parliament, at the Supreme Soviet. In other words, I arrived at the meeting, already holding certain powers. Other participants had not been authorized in this way. Clearly, they have to go through this process. So, a very simple solution was found. The declaration confirmed that all parties take a positive view of the charter. Clearly, the fact that it was not signed by all the parties, in particular Ukraine, is something which will have to be analyzed extremely carefully by the Ukrainian Parliament, by its commissions. But we ourselves have already passed through that stage.

[Telen] Stanislav Stanislavovich, each time after yet another summit we usually hear assurances that this particular meeting has been a momentous one, that fortunately, all gloomy forecasts have not come true, that the CIS is blooming and thriving and that yet another range of documents have been signed. Documents are indeed being signed, and large numbers of them too. But take the point of a common citizen of any of the CIS countries—he is quite indifferent as to what sort of documents have been signed, he is interested in what is actually happening. Time goes by. Blood continues to be shed on the territory of the CIS. Declarations concerning the single ruble space come alongside with the introduction of national currencies. The issue of nuclear weapons has not yet been resolved. It naturally worries everyone. Could you please name just one specific problem which

you succeeded in resolving fully within the framework of the CIS, and which you resolved painlessly owing to the fact that it was being resolved within the framework of the CIS?

[Shushkevich] As you know, this structure of the commonwealth is so complex and so new that simple solutions of problems are impossible within it. I would just like to ask you to recall the former Soviet Union and name any problem which was really resolved within it. Problems were said to have been resolved but in fact they were not, a lot of problems including interethnic ones, problems of living standards and the guaranteeing of rights stated in the constitution. Much is now demanded, you see. For instance, you are asking me why there is no ruble zone. It is one thing to declare that we have created a ruble zone. By the way, the existence of states' own currencies does not contradict the ruble's role as the means for settling accounts, the role of the ruble of the Russian National Bank as the only means for settling the accounts. This option is also possible. But in order to have this option, we must be concerned not just with individual state's rights and advantages, we ought to have a strategy and look into the future.

In general, we must accept some limitations at present, understanding that in future this will yield some specific result. That is why I would like you to view the past year from this standpoint. After all, problems arising from certain matters have been resolved. But in some places conflicts have gone so far that it is impossible to stop them by a simple decision or declaration.

[Telen] I would like to ask you ...

[Shushkevich, interrupting] I think that decisions made on our southern border, on our attitude to and the assessment of the Tajik events, on how to help the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan cannot be felt immediately today. But they were already felt before. States' efforts were aimed at stopping bloodshed there. The bloodshed clearly is not to be stopped by using excessively delicate methods: Sensible use must be made here of both authority and force. Such ways of approaching the issues have been found and I am convinced that they will yield results.

To move on to nuclear weapons: Just why is it that these issues are not being resolved? The issues are being tackled in accordance with international treaties, we are punctiliously adhering to these accords, even though many stances have not been ratified by parliaments.

As for Belarus, I am proud to reiterate on behalf of my republic that we admit that there are troops from Russia on the territory of our republic. We consider that these nuclear weapons belong to Russia, because Belarus' contribution to developing them was pretty modest—let's be blunt about that—and these weapons belong, I repeat, to Russia. We are acting together with Russia on the basis of bilateral accords to tackle the question of how to get them out of our republic as soon as possible. However, it is an extremely difficult matter, it does not mean merely making an announcement today and then withdrawing them in three months' time. That just cannot be done, the lives of many people are involved; and in the final analysis the general system of security is at stake, something that cannot be infringed and destroyed, we have to act sensibly here. One therefore should not expect any instant successes and results. But it should be noted that strict rules are being followed, orders are not, in general, being dictated, but ways of proceeding are being observed, specific approaches have been worked out. I personally think that the Republic of Belarus has worked out these ways of proceeding, and we hope to be able to avoid all the difficulties which are occurring in other places.

[Skryabin] Stanislav Stanislavovich, I have a question for you, moreover, this is not my personal question, this is one of the questions from viewers. Safarov from Leningrad, Maksim Dormidontovich Chizhevskiy from Moscow, Mikhlenko from Kazakhstan and a whole number of other viewers ask: Could you tell, we talk about adopting the charter at present and that some signed it and others did not. There is a statement on the attitude to the CIS charter which was signed unanimously. But a whole number of questions arise. For example, you talked about nuclear weapons, where Ukraine has a special position. The Moldovan president took part in the discussions as if he were not there. Was the participation of these states in adopting the CIS charter a kind of pressure to a certain degree? Viewers ask this question.

[Shushkevich] Andrey Georgiyevich, it seems to me, it is the peculiarity of the present situation that at the meeting of heads of government as well as at the meeting of heads of state an approach was found which took into account different opinions and different situations inside different CIS states. You have mentioned Ukraine. I don't know why everybody says at present that some signed the charter and others did not. Nobody signed the charter. Nobody, not a single side. The decision on the attitude to the charter was signed. The decision was signed. Further. The charter is very flexible because it can hardly be otherwise. For example, Belarus signed the charter but made certain reservations. But we did not make these reservations this time because Article 46 of the charter envisages a possibility of making official reservations during the ratification of the charter by parliament. We have already formulated these reservations. Perhaps, we will make them sound more respectful and laconic. It takes time. Commissions of the Supreme Soviet work, the government works, the Foreign Ministry works. We have our option but, perhaps, it will be defined a little bit more precisely now when these reservations are made. In other states the internal situation is such that I, for example, can perfectly understand the leaders of these states, in that they do not have the right at present to sign the decision on the charter. Why? Because a whole number of questions need to be resolved inside the state. But I am convinced that the charter and

the decision to sign it open free access to this charter for these states. It can be analyzed. and I am convinced that after this analysis the circle of those who will sign this charter will be considerably wider.

Therefore there is no pressure here. There is a door which is kindly opened: Come in, please. What pressure is exerted on the states which did not join the charter? Or what pressure is exerted on Belarus because we do not participate in the collective defense system? No pressure at all. There is respect for our position. In general, it has become automatic. Our legislation is as follows: Perhaps, there are very many people in Belarus who support, on the whole, the participation by the Republic of Belarus in the collective defense system. However, parliament has adopted a constitutional law which does not allow us to do this. And therefore we hold sacred our legislation. There is the same situation with regard to other issues in other states. I cannot see any pressure. There are no big brothers there.

[Semenov] Stanislav Stanislavovich, I remember an episode at the final news conference when you talked of legal approach and of a highly moral policy as one of the CIS's main achievements. Do you remember this?

[Shushkevich] Yes, I do.

[Semenov] And now you are talking about the significance of the signature under the document. Some will sign it, others will not. But there is also another problem here. As far as I know, about 250 documents have been signed during the year of the existence of the commonwealth, and by no means all of them are being implemented. Does it seem to you that the notion of high morals in politics also includes faithfulness to one's word and faithfulness to the signature under the document?

[Shushkevich] Yuliy Aleksandrovich, you are absolutely right. On the whole, there is a whole number of positions which, regrettably, remained wishes, in fact, declarations. But at present we are working in a direction whereby these positions should not be declarations and I would like to draw your attention to the following: It has become a winged phrase—250 agreements have been signed and almost none is being implemented. This is not the situation. Individual positions of individual agreements are not implemented. Regrettably, however, they are fateful indeed. This mainly relates to our economic obligations, do you understand? When we want to observe our obligations, it turns out that the moral principle is interpreted differently. In order to be a highly moral politician and in order to observe these obligations, I must act badly with regard to a wide category of people in Belarus. What does it mean to fulfill financial economic obligations? It means not to allow a budget deficit and a whole number of similar positions. These positions are difficult to implement. Therefore there is one reason, and yes, it must be realized, we should work in such a way inside our state that people can understand that this is a necessary step for achieving a stable improvement. And we try to pursue this policy.

Finally, there are the purely declarative parts of the agreement, where we have expressed our wishes but have not thought through the machinery which should make these wishes come true. That is why I said today that I was pleased most of all with the setting up of an inter-state bank. This means that we have at last found a formula, on the basis of which the whole mechanics of our work can be built. I hope that it will bring about new steps forward with regard to a number of agreements.

Now, to my next point. I believe that the machinery of imposing sanctions—we have developed certain procedures for imposing sanctions, economic sanctions—but we must send our representatives to the Economic Court to impose them. Regrettably, not all states are doing this. But when they see that their non- observance of economic agreements is first and foremost to their own detriment, I think they will send them. These decisions must ripen. This commonwealth is something new, such a form has not existed before, and we are discovering new principles of operating which, generally speaking, no one needed before. We had a dictatorial system before and so everything was plain and clear then. Now those principles are being developed on the grassroots level, i.e. by the states themselves. Therefore, I am not a skeptic, I believe that we will find a method, that we are already finding a method of making economic agreements work.

[Telen] I would like to continue discussing the subject of interaction between the commonwealth member states. Today, a year after the commonwealth was set up, it is obvious to everyone that states with different political regimes, if I may put it so, have joined it. It is not by accident, for instance, that the Republic of Uzbekistan has refused to agree with that section of the charter which dealt with setting up a commission on human rights; apparently, this was due to some internal reasons. Could you please tell me, how, in your opinion, such dissimilar states can co-exist within one commonwealth? And how should their relations be constructed, in particular, in the sphere of protecting human rights, if we take as a starting point the principle of complete non-interference in a republic's internal affairs, including the human rights aspect, which does not fully correspond with international law, which permits interference in a state's internal affairs when the matter involves observance of human rights?

[Shushkevich] You know, esteemed Lyudmila Olegovna, sometimes we tend to have too categorial approaches and even hurl reproaches at whole states, as I am afraid you have just done, without being at all familiar with what is going on in those states.

[Telen] I did not hurl a reproach; I simply stated a fact.

[Shushkevich] But I can interpret it this way, in practical terms, if you see what I mean. You know, the stage you

are going through now—I went through this stage a year or two ago. At some point, when I was vying for the post of a people's deputy of the USSR, I wrote in my election program that it was impossible to use the same methods to run cotton picking in Uzbekistan and reindeer breeding in Kamchatka; I liked the phrase and thought I had found a good formula. But now I keep having it proved to me that this is in fact so.

You see, a certain level of development is required to make it possible to apply all pure formulae on human rights to a particular state. This is my point of view, I know you can object to it in many ways. So, when we observe human rights, generally speaking, in a standard form, we in fact free a small group of people from certain responsibilities which had previously existed in that state. Being freed from those responsibilities, they create such an atmosphere of unrest that human rights begin to be violated in respect of a much larger population group. A politician must decide if he is going to exercise a classical approach in this respect and sign the whole system of precepts on human rights, or wait for a while, sort things out and reach a sufficient level of understanding of what rights they are and what responsibilities ensue from them. And one must have a good look at what is going on in the countries. Look—where they pressed the human rights issue too hard, such bloodshed followed, to an impermissible extent in the southern regions, that perhaps it is worth thinking whether fast progress is really necessary.

I should like to remind you that the experience of a socialist revolution in an isolated country which was in a feudal state of development—in the past we used to say that was all right, that stage could be skipped—but no, unfortunately history forces us to labor through all stages in a hard and painful way. Here, speaking about human rights, it is necessary to observe those aspects of them which would guarantee that those declarations are really observed.

I therefore consider the position—in this case, while you are on the subject of Uzbekistan, and I hope the leadership of that country will forgive me—I consider the position to be correct, and one which ought to be respected and understood.

[Telen] In other words you feel that within the framework of the CIS the states can go ahead and implement various rights that are recognized throughout the world, and do so at various speeds.

[Shushkevich] Yes, indisputably, because, you know, you cannot get off a cart and straight away transfer to a jet aircraft.

[Telen] Thank you.

[Shushkevich] Thank you.

[Skryabin] Mr. Chairman, I'm better placed than my colleagues, because we have agreed that viewers' questions will be asked through me. So I'm speaking not on my own behalf, but on behalf of the viewers. A few questions which perhaps arise from our theme. Melnikov from Moscow: We have 70,000 Belarusians living in Moscow, and I know many of them in the city. Is it possible to obtain dual citizenship? A similar question comes from Kartousov of Tiraspol: My parents and I are Belarusians; what guarantee have we of obtaining citizenship of our ethnic homeland?

[Shushkevich] Well, all ethnic Belarusians and everyone who was born in that territory and has lived there have the opportunity to obtain the rights of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus. We have no dual citizenship, though actually it was envisaged originally by the draft law. The law is sacred and must be obeyed, but I think questions of this sort will arise for us, and there is a legislative basis for solving them. In other words, if treaties come into existence between states and they are ratified by our parliament, then that possibility may be created. As yet we have no dual citizenship. However, I say again, we invite everyone to be citizens of the Republic of Belarus, but there is no dual citizenship.

This has its justification. You know, it's quite obvious why Russia may accept dual citizenship. That is quite obvious. Russia is a large country with an established culture—well, you know, it's a great power. Whereas Belarus is a country where we now have to wash clean, we have, you understand, to restore literally the beginning, the sacred, good and admirable beginnings. If we had dual citizenship—this is what the members of parliament have decided—then that process would develop, could develop slowly or could even go into reverse. That was parliament's opinion. So we took that decision. But, I repeat, we will seek a formula and the legal approach exists, in the form of treaties—if the question arises. I would just like to say to Belarusians living in Moscow that in my view your rights are not being infringed there, just as the rights of Russians or of any other nationality have not been infringed in Belarus. This is what we are most proud of.

[Skryabin] Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have a big request: Let us have quick questions, as it were, and quick answers. Thus Dubinov, Moscow, asks, do the seven unitary states have no desire to elect a coordinator or head of state, but not from Russia?

[Shushkevich] No, we have no desire to elect a head of state, because the CIS is not a state.

[Skryabin] Abramov of Lipetsk asks: My grandchildren live in Minsk. Now that the collapse of the union has been signed, I can't send my grandchildren anything from Russia—not a postal order, nor a parcel—nothing. How does Shushkevich feel about this?

[Shushkevich] Shushkevich takes a categorically dim view of it, and is seeking a solution, together with the government of the Republic of Belarus and the parliament, and the government of Russia and the parliament of Russia. Incidentally, the setting up of an interstate

bank represents the solution of the lion's share of these issues. So we want that time to come, very quickly.

[Skryabin] Galina Ivanovna Shastin from Moscow asks: Whom do you find easier to work with, Yeltsin or Kravchuk—or do you have to maneuver?

[Shushkevich] You know, I find it easy to work both with Boris Nikolayevich and with Leonid Makarovich, and I would list all the others. You understand, one has to work, and not look for some great personal friendship, personal contacts. That helps; but unfortunately, you know, a politician can't always be a very amiable person, and so I fully understand all the positions that we have, the various approaches. I greatly respect those presidents and all the rest as well.

[Skryabin] So, Marchenkov from Kaliningrad. There are about 150,000 Belarusians living around Moscow. Is anything being done to enable the Belarusians living there to hear and see Minsk in the same way as Russians who live in Russia can? [question as heard]

[Shushkevich] Well, this is a serious problem. You know, we have been able to solve this problem only with regard to the Belarusian minority in Poland. We simply switched the first channel, our most powerful television channel, to Belarusian, which finally enabled Belarusians living in Poland to see and hear Minsk. We must think about this problem. I think that the Ostankino program must really work for the commonwealth, including the Belarusians who live around Moscow. As for the Russians living in our country, they already have this service. We will be looking for a solution.

[Skryabin] The last question. Pavlovskiy, Igor Aleksandrovich from Moscow is asking why Belarusian state power structures allow the Russian language press to insult the Belarus authorities, and why the state does not defend itself? What do you think about the demand by BELARUSKAYA MOVA to declare Belarus a republic?

[Shushkevich] I don't quite understand which Russian-language press insults Belarus.

[Skryabin] I think he means Russian newspapers which sharply criticize Belarus.

[Shushkevich] You know, I would not put up any divisions along language lines. We are also criticized by Belarusian-language newspapers. We are having difficulties with the law on language. When we say that some effort must be made, that we must work, that we must know the state language, when it comes to a specific individual who does not speak it, then he pretends to be a fighter for bilingualism, I mean state bilingualism. But in fact we are actually experiencing mono-lingualism, because previously about 2 percent could speak Belarusian, and even now only about 7-8 percent can speak it. Unfortunately even prominent scientists are being drawn into this argument, and you see, they are completely confused. I hope that they will forgive me. They hold very high positions in Russian science, and for some reason or other think that Belarus is the home of some ignorant idiots, that we renounce the Russian language, that we want to publish scientific works in Belarusian, etc, etc.

So many falsehoods have been concocted about what is going on in our country, that it is really offensive to read them. I believe that this is some sort of mass disinformation. How many times have I had to clarify this situation? Well, I am happy that neither Ostankino nor other television companies are conducting any kind of organized propaganda of this type. So I have no suspicions about anyone. I actually think that it is incompetent journalists who bring a lot of confusion into this question.

[Skryabin] Thank you. We touched upon questions related to the economy, and how these problems were tackled at the last meeting. Please, your question.

[Semenov] Stanislav Stanislavovich, I would like to ask you the following. The Minsk meeting—and I would like to go back to it—was the first after the CIS marked the first year of its existence. At the final news conference you rather emotionally challenged the quite popular tale that once upon a time—in December 1991—three brothers of the forest got together in Belovezhskaya Pushcha and decided to create a union. I would like you to state your present point of view to our listeners.

[Shushkevich] Yuriy Aleksandrovich, all I can do is to repeat myself. You understand that very often, [changes thought] I believe that people of a rather primitive frame of mind like to say that the Union was indeed destroyed in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. You know, to put it mildly, it is not, well, it is not true. It is not true. Politicians, when they see that what is happening might lead to harsh consequences, must not only appeal, they must also act. Let me tell you that I definitely wanted a much closer commonwealth. I have never made a secret of that. But by then such an opportunity had already been missed, and we had to acknowledge what had in fact already happened and announce on what grounds we would unite. I believe that we did not let this opportunity slip and that it was an urge for integration rather than for disintegration and destruction.

Let me repeat that we simply acknowledged what had already happened. I actually gave a precise reason for that, Yuriy Aleksandrovich. I will not shy away from repeating, because I am convinced, for at least three months before the Belovezhskaya agreement, many politicians had a strong desire to stay in power, in all-union power, to come within that system of distribution of beneficence for the top echelons, but there was no real activity aimed at really uniting. We missed the opportunity to set up a confederation, we missed it. Let me tell you, I'll tell you straight. Had Gorbachev declared his support in the month of February of last year, of 1991, had he expressed his support for the confederation, I am convinced the confederation would have been created, and we would not have had many of our problems.

However, in December it was already too late, and we had to find another formula, and so we did.

[Telen] With your permission, I will put this question even more pointedly. You say that in February Gorbachev could have saved the union through the idea of a confederation. However, you and other states participated in the Novo-Ogarevo process to the bitter end, with all its complications and contradictions. Then there was Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Do we, ordinary citizens of each member state of the CIS, have a guarantee that today there is no parallel process going on behind all these talks conducted by our leaders in Minsk and other cities, and that one glorious day we will not have to face the fact that three or four CIS members have gathered in some other place and declared the creation of a new entity, not a commonwealth any more, but, say, an association, or something else and that we, as citizens, will find ourselves once again confronted with a fait accompli.

[Shushkevich] Esteemed Lyudmila Olegovna, you are using your feminine intuition rather than making a logical assessment of the situation. The commonwealth has been confirmed by parliaments. The treaties have been ratified, and if I, now try to break them, I should be put in my place. The fact is, the constitutional process... [changes thought] That attitude toward the commonweatlh is impermissible. If you are talking about what could have been done before, and if you want to reproach the Novo-Ogarevo process and my participation; let us speak openly: What happened in Novo-Ogarevo? Whatever Boris Nikolayevich wanted, whatever Nursultan Abishevich [Nazarbayev] or Islam Abduganiyevich [Karimov], we were ready to unite, we all held the same point of view, but the esteemed president generally never allowed any decisions to be adopted by a mjority, and there was no schedule for the work of the state committee. At first I thought this was a miscalculation, but then I understood that it was a policy and that there was no decisionmaking procedure on purpose. Whatever opinion we might have had, if it did not coincide with the view of Mikhail Sergeyevich, no decision was taken. I officially state this. If people do not know about it they must know that the president recognized only his own set of views, but that set of views had no basis because as I understood what was going on in Belarus, it was not possible to turn the process back there.

I think other presidents understood in exactly the same way what was going on in other states. But no one wanted to hear us in Novo-Ogarevo, and you know, although various ploys were used because that was a confederative state despite such great maneuvers. [sentence as heard] In the end we had to say: No, we are responsible for the future of our people and we will follow the path which we think is logical and which our states support, and we have followed that path.

[Skryabin] Thank you. I would like to return to economic questions, since we have now very little time left. Nevertheless Stanislav Stanislavovich, let me put to you some of the viewers' questions. Here is one from Korpukhin from Moscow: What has been done by the CIS in the time of its existence in at least one sphere of human life? He then tells us rather rudely that we should not be telling any tales. So what do you think?

[Shushkevich] You know, I think it is very difficult to describe what a state has done. It is not like putting up a fence or nailing the boards. That is not like a house—you can describe the state of a house, for instance, by saying we have started working on the roof. But look what is going on now, previously the esteemed viewer would have been afraid of saying anything against the government out of fear. Now he can freely express his opinion. Let him recall whether this was the case in the past and whether there were political freedoms or freedom in communication.

Furthermore, we are now transferring the economy to a new basis, and I can say what has been done in Belarus. I have already spoken about this at the concluding news conference. We have at last begun to raise the level of industrial production on a new basis. The gross national product is increasing, in November by about 1.5 percent and in December by about 13.5 percent compared with November and December last year. Now we are reaching the level... [changes thought] I think stabilization is now approaching in other states too, but that is not a matter for the CIS. I think it is up to the countries themselves.

You see, if politicians are shaking the structure from above, if there is no agreement between them, then the chaos will trickle down to lower levels. So difficulties occur. It is necessary to trust the authorities, and we are working to obtain this trust, all of us to our various degrees. Sometimes we condemn our heads of state for their positions, for their stance on human rights, for instance. But look at the results of the steady efforts made in some states: There are some good indices there. So you must not judge these things in this way, I believe that the situation is stabilizing and so is the transition to a new basis. Look at what happened after the revolution. Now things are moving much more smoothly. We calculated in Belarus for instance, that by 1996 we will stop living in debt. We now have to ask countries, including Russia, for credits, because it is difficult to move to world oil prices. But people understand us; this process did not take place suddenly. It did not occur last year or now. Other states have understood our processes and understood that we have effectively taken upon ourselves the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and most of its troubles. We, CIS states, understand each other. Positive processes are developing. Let us not blacken everything.

[Skryabin] Many thanks. We have now practically run out of time. I will let my colleague ask you the last question.

[Telen] My question is brief. We have not discussed the Tajik situation. Could you tell us about it. Did the participants in the meeting manage to reach a unanimous view on the Tajik situation, and is there a guarantee that the peace-making forces will be able to improve the situation?

[Shushkevich] Yes, we managed to achieve completely united understanding of what has been going on there and how we should correct the situation. But we do not have the same opinion regarding participation in this action. I was even forced to say: Esteemed heads of governments and states! Please forgive the Republic of Belarus for being unable to send its battalion there. Please, try to understand our past history: The war, where we lost at least every fourth citizen and even more as it becomes clear now, has recently ended. This is a fact. However, we would like to help you by our economic efforts, but not by sending a contingent of troops there because our legislation prohibits it. We will render any possible assistance. Why am I saying this? We are united in our understanding of this question, we are united in the understanding of how it should be solved, but we are not united as far as sending a contingent of armed forces there is concerned. That is to say, we are supporting this step but we cannot send our troops there. I must certainly make that clear.

[Skryabin] Understood, thank you. Mr Chairman, let me thank you on behalf of our viewers and my colleagues for finding time to have a meeting with us. We are very grateful to you because we understand that you are a very busy man. We thank you and our viewers for having taken part in this program. You still have around 30 seconds if you want to say something else.

[Shushkevich] You know, I, for my own part, want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my own point of view on these questions. You know, I am happy that both our Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and our government have the same opinion on the majority of questions and have achieved mutual understanding. I would like to wish the same warm and good cooperation between the executive and representative power in other republics.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. By the way, please, excuse me, I should have said that we normally end this program with a final statement from our guest. You know I have some questions. Are you, as chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, ready, let us say, for a round-table with Kravchuk, Yeltsin, and...

[Shushkevich, interrupting] I will answer you as a pioneer: I am always ready!

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. So, I thank you and I wish you the best of luck.

[Shushkevich] The best of luck to you too.

Slavic Assembly Demands Confederative State

WS2201133493 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1459 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The social and political organization Slavic Assembly "Belaya Rus" has again made its existence known by submitting a statement to the Belarusian Supreme Council. The statement calls the CIS an artificial political formation with no legal basis and demands that the deputies discuss at the session the proposal of Russian parliamentarians concerning the establishment of a unified confederative state instead of the former USSR.

The assembly has also submitted a protest to Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, a number of government officials, and the leaders of the country's defense. The protest expresses the fear of kindling interethnic hostility in the Army.

Moldova

President Snegur on Outcome of Minsk CIS Summit

LD2301135993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1341 GMT 23 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 23 TASS—The stand of Moldova at the latest CIS summit remained unchanged. The republic's delegation discussed only economic problems and did not show interest in political or military issues, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur stated on Saturday [23 January] upon arriving here from Minsk.

Snegur said Moldova signed agreements concerning the establishment of an inter-state bank and an inter-state radio and television network, the circulation of securities throughout the CIS territory, benefits for disabled servicemen, and a number of other documents.

The president of Moldova pointed out that he did not sign a draft charter of the CIS but joined the leaders of other countries who signed a joint declaration concerning primarily the economic aspects of the CIS.

Snegur said that he had a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Minsk. They agreed that the delegations of the two states would soon discuss and sign a treaty on economic cooperation between Moldova and Russia for 1993.

Grenades Explode in Tighina; Situation 'Relatively Calm'

AU2401150893 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Bogdan Alexandru report from Chisinau]

[Text] The atmosphere is relatively calm today in Tighina. Several acts of infraction have been committed here over the last 24 hours.

According to a Chisinau Radio correspondent, the units of the illegal troops that were posted in the center of Tighina disappeared overnight. The ad-interim Tighina Town Police Commissary announced a short while ago that two hand grenades exploded last night in the Borisovka town district.

Social Democratic Party Urges Forming Constituent Assembly

LD2201232793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1321 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 22 Jan—The Social Democratic Party of Moldova has accused the presidium of the republican parliament of usurping power, as well as depriving the people of their right to decide their future by referendum by relying on supporters of unification with Romania. Social Democrats demanded that the authorities and President Mircea Snegur pursue an active policy aimed at securing the independence and territorial integrity of the state through non-violent, peaceful means.

They believe that the existing parliament has exhausted itself and its presidium, which has already frustrated the holding of a referendum on independence several times, promoted escalation of the Dniester conflict, and destabilization of the situation in the republic. The Social Democrats believe that a constituent assembly, which will ensure the representation of all territories and social and ethnic groups of the population, should replace the parliament.

Kazakhstan

Government Confident of IAEA Acceptance

OW1501213793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Government sources told "INTERFAX" [IF] that Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko Thursday [14 January] sent a letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) requesting membership in the international organization.

The President of the KATEP corporation (Kazakh Atomic Energy Industry) Viktor Yazikov said in an interview with "INTERFAX" that Kazakhstan will "without a doubt" be inducted into the IAEA at the agency's general assembly meeting in Vienna this September. Yazikov said only "certain formalities" concerning the preparation of technical documentation must be solved.

KATEP Vice President Valeriyan Shimanskiy said the IAEA will accept Kazakhstan under special terms; the republic must pay a nearly 1 million dollar entrance fee. The IAEA will send Kazakhstan an accident notification system. Kazakhstan promises not to produce nuclear weapons.

IF Note: There are five nuclear reactors operating in Kazakhstan. The first of these is located in Aktau at the Mangyshlaksky Energy Center, where an industrial reactor operates on BN-350 neutrons. Another reactor is operating at the Institute for Nuclear Physics near Alma Ata. The remaining three are located in Kurchatov near the Semipalatinsky testing grounds. The republic also produces 3 thousand tons of uranium, which is 30% of the total uranium produced in the former Soviet Union.

Supreme Soviet Criticizes Local Press Article

LD2401215193 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] The press service of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Kazakhstan states that the article entitled "Squabbling for power Kazakhstan style," published in KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA of 21 January 1993 is not objective. The arguments of the writer, who asserts that allegedly there is confrontation between the republic's representative and executive authorities, are unconvincing and not backed up with any proof. In writing the article the journalist clearly used unreliable information which misled him and thus confused the reader as well.

It is certainly no accident that the article was published on the eve of continuation of discussions on the draft constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This was done in order to whip up public opinion and make a negative impact on the practical work of parliament during such a complex period in its operation, resulting from economic instability and the difficult sociopolitical situation in our society.

Correspondent Denies Rumors of Kazakhstan Abandoning Ruble

LD2101233393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1351 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By KAZTAG-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 21 Jan—Kazakhstan is not thinking either of withdrawing unilaterally from the single ruble zone or of conducting money reform. This is the conclusion reached by a correspondent of the KAZAKHSTAN INFORMATION AGENCY who was checking all kinds of rumors to this effect circulating in the Kazakh capital.

In an attempt to establish the truth, the KAZTAG correspondent today contacted the heads of the appropriate republican state institutions. It turns out that the rumors have no real foundation. Moreover, the country's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, intends at tomorrow's summit meeting in Minsk to defend the idea of turning the ruble into a genuine supranational currency, seeing in this an effective instrument for restoring the economic links between the republics of the former USSR, links which have been practically completely destroyed.

The rumors were caused by an increase in public transport fares and in the prices of basic foodstuffs. In addition, traders at markets and assistants in commercial shops have stopped accepting one and three ruble notes. The report on the minting of a test batch of national coins was confirmed, but this has been done in a limited quantity.

Government Approves Deficit of Over 182 Billion Rubles

OW1501164193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kazakh parliament on Friday [15 January] approved the government's 1993 budget and sent it back to the budget commission for final revisions. The draft budget plans for a 1993 budget deficit of 182 Bn [billion] 839 Mn [million] rubles. Budget revenues should total 696 Bn 726 Mn rubles, expenditures should total 879 Bn 619 Mn rubles.

A total of 69 Bn 299 Mn rubles will be spent on defense, including 41 Bn to maintain regular armed forces and 25 Bn to maintain strategic armed forces, 423 Mn for the Baikonur space vehicle launch site and 1 bn rubles for the republican guards of Kazakhstan.

Supreme Soviet Approves Laws on Defense, Armed Forces

LD2101234493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1431 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Tatyana Zhurbenko, for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 21 Jan—Today's session of the Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet concluded examination of a group of military issues begun in December last year. Among the legislative acts approved by the deputies are the laws "On the defense and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan," "On universal military service," and on issues of social protection and pensions for servicemen. It was decided not to examine the issue of alternative military service for the moment in view of the fact that at the present there are no such opportunities in the republic.

Iranian Official Signs Transport Agreements

LD2301111693 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow Jan. 23, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Bani-Najarian left Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, for Tehran Friday [22 January] after signing a protocol on bilateral land and air transportation with his Kazakh counterpart Alpys Bekov.

In a meeting with Bekov, the Iranian official, who was in the republic at the head of a delegation, signed a protocol on Tehran-Alma-Ata land and air transportation to be submitted to the Iranian and Kazakh ministers of roads and transport for final agreement.

Earlier in the day, Bani-Najarian met with Kazakh Minister of Roads and Transport Nematjan Issin Kirim and discussed expansion of Tehran-Alma-Ata cooperation in the fields of land and air transportation as well as other areas.

Kirim lauded mutual relations between the two countries and expressed hope that Tehran-Alma-Ata air link would be established in a near future.

Referring to the existence of different goods and commodities in the Persian Gulf island of Kish as well as the commercial and tourist attractions of the island, Kirim stressed the need for establishment of regular flights between Kish and Alma-Ata.

Ministry Urges Fulfilling of UN Resolutions on Iraq

LD1501185893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report by KAZTAG-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 15 Jan—The Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan has expressed concern in connection with the events of the past few days in the south of Iraq and called on the sides involved in the conflict to refrain from any further escalation of tension. The document, issued by the Foreign Ministry press service today, stresses that Kazakhstan supports the efforts of the world community directed at eliminating the consequences of the Iraqi aggression in Kuwait and at fulfilling the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. At the same time, Kazakhstan wants the principles of the UN Charter to be observed without fail with regard to the guarantees of teritorial integrity of states and the inviolability of their borders.

"Kazakhstan," says the document, "wants to look for and make use of peaceful means to put a halt to the suffering of the Iraqi people and wants the potential of the UN, other international organizations, and the whole of the world community to be used for these purposes."

Kyrgyzstan

President Confirms Embassy To Open in Jerusalem

LD2101141893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 21 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv January 21 TASS—President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan has completed his official visit to Israel. Akayev and persons accompanying him left for home on Thursday [20 January].

Evyathar Manor, official spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, announced on Wednesday that Kyrgyzstan would open its embassy in Jerusalem.

Akayev, speaking later on at a reception given in his honour, confirmed the decision, emphasising that, in the opinion of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

He voiced hope that Moslem countries would regard the step with understanding. At the same time Akayev called for the speediest solution to the Palestinian problem and for the granting of independence to the Palestinian people.

Until now, there have been the embassies of only two countries—Costa Rica and El Salvador—in Jerusalem. The embassies of the other states are in Tel Aviv.

A number of agreements on cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Israel in agriculture, trade and the power industry were also signed on Wednesday. Akayev visited Jerusalem's Moslem shrines—al-Aqsa and Qubbat al-Sahra mosques.

Akayev Considers Emergency Economic Measures

LD2101181093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1650 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] At the request of President Askar Akayev the government of Kyrgyzstan has begun working on a program for emergency measures in the economy. The Kyrgyz president believes that the economic condition of his republic is critical and disaster is around the corner. Industrial recession has declined steeply for three years running. President Akayev suggests the reorganization of government ministries. He's expressed no confidence in the National Bank and commercial banks. It was a great sensation when President Akayev said that armed groups of militants had begun to emerge in Kyrgyzstan and that a special law must be adopted to ban their activities.

Highlights Economic, Crime Problems

PM2201142793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Ryabushkin report: "President Akayev Sets Week To Draw Up Emergency Measures in Economy"]

[Text] Bishkek—"If we allow the economy to crash, then we must take up pistols and shoot ourselves," Askar Akayev summed up his speech at an emergency session of the government of Kyrgyzstan. After giving a week to prepare emergency measures, the president left on a visit to Israel.

The aircraft set course for the Near East, while numerous apparatchiks sat down with paper and calculators.

According to Akayev, the economy in the republic is in a critical state, and disaster is approaching. The sharp drop in production is continuing into its third year. In terms of all indicators Kyrgyzstan lies second from bottom, with only warring Armenia below it. Even Tajikistan ended 1992 in a better position. There is stable growth (50 percent) only in terms of crime. Bribery and extortion are becoming the operating norm for entire establishments.

The republic has suffered serious failures in the fuel and energy complex, transport, and agriculture.

The head of state proposed "dispersing" certain ministries and committees and reorganizing others, and voiced mistrust of the national bank and other, commercial banks in the republic.

There were sensational statements too. Thus, Akayev said: "Organizations of gunmen have begun to be set up. We must adopt a law against such organizations and keep weapons out of dishonest hands. I know a lot about such combat organizations. Where is the Ministry of Internal Affairs? Maybe they are setting them up themselves?"

The president delivered his speech and left, having sown many questions in the people's minds.

Appeals for Radical Steps

OW1601173793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on Friday [15 January] in the Economics and Finance Ministry, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said the 1993 budget approved by parliament is a total failure, and the government had to revise it completely. (The Interfax 9:00 P.M. news bulletin for January 15 carried a report on Akayev's statements on relations within the CIS in his speech in the ministry.)

Akayev criticized the ministry for "total helplessness and failure to control the implementation of the economic program for 1992-93, for its inability to work out measures to mitigate the negative effects of the transition to world prices and weaken the republic's dependence on energy and grain imports."

"The economic forecast for 1993 made by ministry experts has proved totally wrong, and the officials who signed it must resign," the President said.

He said he was disappointed with his meeting at the ministry, at which he had heard no constructive proposals for thwarting the coming economic catastrophe. The irresponsibility of those in charge of the republic's economy and finance system was making him "lose confidence in the possibility of overcoming the crisis."

Akayev urged the ministry staff to become fully aware of the grave character of the present situation and take radical steps to stabilize it.

In his view, the crisis is so grave that there is no time to deal with macroeconomic matters. At least 10 to 15 practical projects have to be carried out this year to prevent the disaster, Akayev said.

Tajikistan

Government Forces Moving Toward Southeastern Regions

LD2301231493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 23 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to an ITAR-TASS report, large armored columns of government forces are moving in the direction of the southeastern regions of Tajikistan, which are under the control of illegal armed formations. Also, a concentration of military hardware can be seen on the approaches to the Ramit gorge. The outskirts of Dushanbe are patrolled by reinforced units of the national army.

Representatives of the Tajikistan Government are stating that the legitimate authorities are being confronted only by small armed groups in certain mountain regions of the Pamir foothills, for example; in Garm district, in Khatlon Oblast, and the Gissar valley, the fratricidal war has been ended.

But reports of the Tajik special services bear out that there are still a great deal of weapons in the hands of illegal formations, including foreign-produced weapons, along with modern rocket launchers. Having seen one of them, a representative of the 201st motor rifle division stated that even the Russian army does not have such weapons.

At the same time, Russian border guards on the Tajik-Afghan frontier are working under emergency conditions. About 40,000 Tajik refugees have gathered in Afghanistan on the section of the Pyanj border detachment. And so it is very probable that the units of five CIS states, numbering up to 2,500, which are being placed on the Tajik-Afghan border, could be insufficient for resolving all the frontier problems.

CIS Contingents Due in 10 Days

OW2401165293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Four motorized infantry battalions, each one 500 men strong, are expected to arrive in the Tajik capital during the next ten days, chairman of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov told INTERFAX on Sunday [24 January]. He said that the decision to send a CIS peace-keeping contingent, taken during the Minsk summit, was a manifestation of the so much needed moral support for Tajikistan.

Afghanistan must see that we are not alone and that the CIS states will help us protect the state border which is common for the whole of the CIS, he said. He also pointed out that at a definite point, the conflict in Tajikistan ceased to be internal and that frontier-guards have ample evidence of this.

Rakhmonov will be able to name the exact date of the introduction of the CIS peace-keeping force to Tajikistan after his talks with Russia's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who, to quote Rakhmonov, will arrive in Dushanbe on February 5 on the invitation of the Tajik government.

Weapon Confiscation To Accelerate

OW2401165993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's Deputy Prime Minister Mukhammad Said Ubaidullayev believes that the confiscation of weapons, illegally kept by the population, is not intensive enough. "According to my sources, only 10 guns were confiscated yesterday," he said.

Since the Tajik authorities passed the resolution on the confiscation of weapons by the Tajik interior bodies, about 3,000 units of illegally kept weapons have been confiscated. At the same time, according to the most moderate estimate, the population still keeps more than 20,000 guns.

To quote Ubaidullayev, Tajikistan's new defence minister Colonel Aleksandr Shishlyannikov intends to accelerate the confiscation of weapons. Shishlyannikov also believes that regular units should be formed up on the basis of the well-armed detachments of the Popular Front of Tajikistan, and attached to the national Armed Forces.

In his opinion, this is expedient for two reasons: on the one hand, the national Armed Forces will be replenished with well-trained fighters, and, on the other, the weapons they have will be put under adequate control.

Troops Continue Offensive

LD2501093893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 25 TASS—Tajik Government troops continue an offensive against last groups of the armed opposition in eastern areas of Tajikistan.

Armoured units of Tajik Government troops began a large-scale operation to neutralise rebels scattered in Ramit gorge at about 70 kilometers from Dushanbe.

Casualties were reported on both sides following clashes between the rebels and government troops. The rebels continue armed resistance despite the authorities' demands to surrender weapons.

Government troops are preparing a spring-board for an offensive at Pamir, Komsomolbad and Garm areas which are still under control of the armed opposition. More troops and armoured carriers are approaching the settlements of Obigarm and Ragun, from which the rebels were driven out a week ago.

Apparently, the Tajik leadership intends to make short work of the opposition forces before peace-keeping forces arrive. The first four battalions of CIS blue helmets are expected to arrive in Tajikistan one of these days in keeping with the Minsk agreements.

Russian 201st Division Begins Recruiting Local Residents

OW2401170693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Since the beginning of January, when contract service became legal, Russia's 201st motorized infantry division, stationed in Tajikistan, has been replenished by 150 servicemen. Acting division commander, Anatoliy Ivlev, told Interfax that in the future the practice of recruiting servicemen from among local residents will continue.

However, the division command insists that preference be given to Russian-speaking servicemen, he went on to say. This, he said, has nothing to do with nationalist reasons.

"It is very difficult for us to reveal whether or not the recruited serviceman was involved in the bloody internal conflict," he said. "Relations between representatives of different regions and ethnic groups is another problem," he added.

Asked whether his division's status has changed following the Minsk summit, Ivlev said that "this status has been legalized". In his opinion, the position of the 201st division is similar to that of the armed forces which were located in Germany.

"This means that when Tajikistan will be able to defend its borders on its own and we are no longer needed, the question of removing our division from Tajikistan or integrating it with the Tajik national army will be raised," he said.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Hails CIS Summit Results

LD2401130393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1247 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 24 TASS—Tajikistan Parliament Chief Imamali Rakhmonov expressed satisfaction with the results of the Minsk summit of the CIS heads of state.

In an interview with local and foreign journalists upon arriving here from Minsk, Rakhmonov said the results of the CIS summit give ground "to take an optimistic view of the CIS future and of its role in the resolution of conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union through collective efforts".

This was confirmed, in Rakhmonov's view, by the course and results of the discussion of the situation in Tajikistan and around it at the Minsk summit.

"It was the first time that such a high-level forum considered the situation in our republic. The fact that the discussion continued for about five hours is indicative of how seriously the leaders of CIS countries regard this problem. Most participants in the meeting supported the new lawful government of Tajikistan and its efforts towards stabilising the situation in the country," the Tajik leader said.

The documents adopted in Minsk as a result of the discussion of this issue, Rakhmonov said, are of historic importance for the future of the Tajik people. It is important that the documents reaffirm CIS countries' intention to contribute to strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border and send a CIS peacemaking force to the republic and give all-round humanitarian aid to Tajikistan.

"The Minsk documents give ground to expect the earliest normalisation of the situation in our republic," the Tajik parliament speaker emphasised.

Estimating the socio-political situation in Tajikistan and the atmosphere on the Tajik-Afghan border, Rakhmonov said the present leadership of the republic has enough strength and resources to stop any armed provocation from the contiguous territory.

Touching upon his talks in Moscow with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Rakhmonov said the guarding the Tajik-Afghan border and the reinforcement of the Russian 201st Motorised Rifle Russian Division stationed in Tajikistan were discussed.

In addition, a tentative understanding was reached on the holding of an official Tajik-Russian summit in the first half of February, the Tajik parliament chief summed up.

Government Ready For Dialogue With All Factions

LD2301130493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The First Deputy Speaker of the Tajik Parliament, Abdulmajid Dostiyev, has said that the new leadership of Tajikistan is prepared for a dialogue with all political parties and movements. He has told reporters that the constitutional government formed some two months ago enjoys support in practically all regions of the republic.

The situation in Tajikistan, where political, religious and clan factions clashed for more than six months, is normalizing. Thousands of refugees have returned to the country from the neighboring Afghanistan. The envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees who visited Tajikistan has promised that the world community will provide an urgent relief aid to the country.

New Defense Minister Views Military Doctrine

LD2201095093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0820 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Dushanbe January 22 TASS—Tajikistan is establishing its own armed forces in accordance with a military doctrine which will be of a purely defensive nature, Tajik Defence Minister Aleksandr Shishlyannikov said on Friday [22 January].

Shishlyannikov, 42, recently appointed to head the republican Defence Ministry, said "the army's main task will be to strengthen the republic's borders and create conditions for constructive work of people."

Uzbekistan

Supreme Court Hearings on Birlik Movement's Legality

PM2201105193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Marina Lebedeva report: "Do They Abolish the Opposition If It Does Not Surrender? Uzbek Supreme Court Has Adopted Decision To Suspend Activities of 'Birlik' People's Movement"]

[Text] Back at the December session, which coincided with the International Conference on Human Rights held in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, deputies of the Uzbek parliament had demanded that the Uzbek Ministry of Justice investigate the legality of the "Birlik" movement's existence. It is known that its members took an active part in the conference.

The Ministry of Justice has now made a representation to the Supreme Court on the expediency of eliminating the movement. The grounds for this were formulated as follows: "During the period 1991-1992 administrative proceedings were instituted against 166 people for the intentions of the leadership and activists of 'Birlik' to hold meetings, rallies, and demonstrations, and criminal proceedings were instituted against 20 people. According to information from Tashkent City Prosecutor's Office, registered and unregistered organizations held 26 meetings, rallies, and demonstrations on the city's territory in 1991, of which 13 were without permission. In 1992 29 were held, 14 of them without obtaining permission. In the pages of official and unofficial mass media the movement's activists have written words and granted interviews which smear the authority, honor, and dignity of the president and other leaders of the republic."

It is clear from this document that no specific charges have been brought against "Birlik."

On the evening of Friday 15 January "Birlik's" leaders received an invitation to attend a court sitting of the republic Supreme Court scheduled for 0930 hours Monday. As the movement's leaders were unable in such a short space of time to study the case materials and to hire an attorney, on the day the court sitting opened the movement's Cochairman Ismatullayev petitioned for the hearings to be postponed. At the insistence of Prosecutor Usmanov and of a representative of the Ministry of Justice the petition was rejected. Then Ismatullayev challenged the court's composition. After taking advice, the court rejected this petition as well, after which "Birlik's" representatives declared that the court was totally ignoring their legitimate demands and left the room.

The court continued its sitting, having first sent the public out of the room.

The next day, 19 January, the court read out the expositional [postanovochnyy] part of the decision—to suspend "Birlik's" activities for three months. The movement's leadership is to eliminate the shortcomings in its work indicated in the representation from the Ministry of Justice.

M. Narzikulov, cochairman of the "Birlik" movement, has reported that Judge Olimkulov explained in a conversation that just one of the facts had been confirmed—a rally by supporters of the "Birlik" movement and the "Erk" democratic party on 2 July 1992. Narzikulov claims, however, that not even that rally took place, as it was canceled by the organizers themselves.

The next trial—of Abdumannob Pulatov, chairman of the human rights society in Uzbekistan—is scheduled for 20 January. Kh. Rasulev, chief editor of NEZAVISIMYY YEZHENEDELNIK [Independent Weekly], has declared in this connection that Abdumannob Pulatov had nothing to do with the publication of a photograph which resulted in his being charged with insulting the honor and dignity of the president of Uzbekistan. The editor reported that he had bought the photograph from someone who had come from Uzbekistan and introduced himself as an employee of the special services.

Kazakh National Security Cooperation Document Signed

LD2101231793 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0145 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] According to a report from the public affairs center of the Committee for National Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan a document on the establishment of relations between this committee and the Committee for National Security of Kazakhstan was signed in Tashkent. The special departments of the two sovereign states will further increase cooperation in the fields of intelligence, (?counterintelligence), crime (?prevention), terrorism, [words indistinct]. The document provides the legal basis for the social protection of workers, members of their families, and pensioners of the national security departments of both countries. The leaders of the departments of the committees for national security of the two fraternal republics held a meeting, where questions of mutual interest and on strengthening cooperation were examined.

Government Strives To Settle Situation in Tajikistan

OW2101230293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The representatives of 19 cultural centers of Uzbekistan decided to create a fund of assistance to Tajikistan. They addressed the peoples of the Central

Asian region with a statement calling to render effective assistance to the neighboring people who suffered as a result of a civil war.

In his interview with INTERFAX Yusup Abdullayev, the Uzbek Ambassador to Moscow, underlined that this address is another confirmation to the strive of Uzbekistan's peoples to assist in a the settlement of the situation in the region. He pointed out that President Islam Karimov strived to draw attention of the CIS countries, of the U.N., and other international organizations to the situation in this Central Asian republic in the course of the Tajik conflict.

According to the Ambassador, at present Uzbekistan helps Tajikistan with food, medicines, lubricants, and other consumer goods. Abdullayev also noted that the Uzbek parliament stands for the participation of the republic's military contingent in the composition of the CIS peace-keeping forces which the Tajik leadership asks to send to their country. The introduction of an Uzbek battalion has been suspended until the parliaments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia adopt a positive decision on the participation in these peace-keeping forces, Abdullayev stressed. He said that he has no information concerning the Uzbek military assistance to Tajikistan.

Armenia

Official Blames Azerbaijan for Georgian Pipeline Blast

LD2401152593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1351 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 24 Jan—"The blast at the gas pipeline in Marneulskiy rayon, Georgia is a result of a subversive act, carefully planned and executed by Azerbaijan to deprive Armenia of its last source of energy," Aram Abramyan, chief of the Armenian president's press service, said in his statement in Yerevan today.

He told ITAR-TASS that "Georgia can hardly be interested in blowing up a gas pipeline on its own territory." In the opinion of the representative of the Armenian leadership, the explosion that destroyed a 250-meter long stretch of the pipeline in Marneulskiy rayon was "a continuation of a blockade on Armenia, another manifestation of Azerbaijan's striving to involve Armenia in a large-scale conflict, and a form of Azerbaijan's aggression against Armenia."

Two Weeks Needed for Repairs

OW2401170293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The exploded gas pipe-line which runs through Georgia's Marneuli region over to Armenia will take at least 14 days to be repaired, head of the Armenian president's press service Aram Abramyan told Interfax. He said that since 3:00 [0000 GMT], January 23, not a single cubic meter of gas has been supplied to Armenia.

He also announced that President Ter-Petrosyan has not yet signed the decree on the introduction of the state of emergency, about which he spoke during the joint session of the Armenian government and the parliament's presidium.

He said that on Sunday, the Armenian government gathered for a conference which was attended by the president. No specific decisions were taken.

Chemical Arms Plan, Pipeline Explosion Linked

OW2401164693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan has plans to use toxic agents in Nagorno-Karabakh, and is weighing out the possibility of using the IL-76 military-transportation plane for bombing Armenia's main power plants.

This information became known to the headquarters of Karabakh's self-defence forces and was confirmed by Major Anatoliy Chichyakov, who had been taken prisoner. Chichyakov had piloted the Azeri aircraft, shot down in Karabakh on January 15.

The Karabakh news agency reports with reference to Chichyakov's evidence that an IL-76 plane may carry 80 500-kilogram bombs, so during one flight Karabakh's administrative center of Stepanakert may be ruined completely.

Major Chichyakov believes that the implementation of this plan began when the gas pipeline, running through the predominantly Azeri Marneuli region of Georgia exploded. As a result, gas supplies to Armenia were terminated completely.

On Saturday evening, the Armenian government and the presidium of the Armenian parliament gathered for a joint session during which President Ter-Petrosyan proposed introducing the state of emergency in Yerevan.

State of Emergency Considered Over Power Crisis

LD2301214093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The Armenian Parliament and Government this evening discussed the situation in the republic's power sector at an extraordinary meeting. At the same time, President Ter-Petrosyan consulted with members of the cabinet and other officials on emergency measures to redress the present situation. An IPRINDA correspondent from Yerevan reports that Armenia may introduce a state of emergency.

Supplies of gas to Armenia have virtually stopped since the gas pipeline was blown up on the territory of the adjacent Marneulskiy rayon in Georgia.

CSCE Chairman on Nagorno-Karabakh Holds Talks in Yerevan

LD2401214993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2116 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan January 25 TASS—Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the CSCE International Conference for Nagorno-Karabakh, arrived in Yerevan late on Sunday from Baku.

In Yerevan, Rafaelli met with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to discuss ways of reaching peace settlement in the region.

Ter-Petrosyan stressed that Armenia accepts both approaches proposed by the Conference which envisage either an unconditional ceasefire or ceasefire on certain terms.

He said, however, that if Azerbaijan puts forth any conditions, Nagorno-Karabakh may also come up with certain demands. The president emphasised that so far Baku has been calling for unilateral concessions.

Rafaelli and Ter-Petrosyan pointed out that peace settlement should proceed in accordance with documents approved by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Rafaelli stressed the need to speed up the settlement process and pledged to do his best to facilitate it.

After talks in Armenia, Rafaelli left for Moscow.

Ter-Petrosyan, Turkish Prime Minister Confer

LD2401142893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan January 24 TASS—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan had a 15-minute telephone talk with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel of Turkey on Sunday [24 January].

They touched upon three matters: The provision of Armenia with bread, the supply of electric power to the republic from Turkey, and matters aimed at peacefully settling the Karabakh crisis, according to the press service of the Armenian president.

Demirel pointed out that the deliveries of bread from Turkey have been suspended because of adverse weather conditions, Aram Abramyan, chief of the Armenian president's press service, told ITAR-TASS.

The Turkish premier promised that the possibility of supplying electricity to Armenia would be discussed among the Turkish government members. The interlocutors reaffirmed their determination to promote a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh within the CSCE framework, the press service announced.

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Conference Chairman on Peace Prospects

LD2301153793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 23 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Hafiz Guseynov for TASS]

[Text] Baku January 23 TASS—"The negotiating process on a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, deadlocked after we failed to convene a conference on Nagorno-Karabakh in Minsk, should be accelerated," Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, said today after his meeting with Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey and Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov.

During the meetings held behind closed doors they discussed possibilities of convening another peace conference with the participation of the conflicting parties, as well as Russian and Turkish representatives.

Rafaelli said he was going to visit the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area, Yerevan, Ankara, Moscow and Stockholm for the purpose of preparing a new international meeting, to be attended by all the parties concerned.

Azeri Demilitarization Plan Proposed

NC2301160293 Baku TURAN in English 1125 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 23 Jan (TURAN)—Today in Baku Chairman of the Minsk Conference of CSCE for Nagorno-Karabakh Mario Rafaelli has started consultations with the president and foreign minister of Azerbaijan.

Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Tofiq Gasimov informed Mario Rafaelli that the situation in the disputed zone of Nagorno-Karabakh has considerably changed of late and the CSCE has to send a fact-finding mission to assess the present-day situation there.

Azerbaijani side put forward the proposal to work out the schedule of troops withdrawal from Karabakh and thus, fully demilitarize the region. Baku considers that the first and most important condition to achieve this is to cease military activities, to end movement of troops and transference of arms.

Today the working group of the experts both of Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry and CSCE will hold a session in Baku. The aim of the session is to concretize and elaborate the Azerbaijani initiative. The similar session will be held in Yerevan too during the Rafaelli's visit to Armenia. And after that, the CSCE will try to work out the mutually acceptable approach.

The TURAN correspondent was informed by the Foreign Ministry that the question whether Mario Rafaelli would visit Khankendi has not been settled yet.

Second Meeting Held

NC2401093493 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0522 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 24 Jan (ASSA-IRADA)—Today, President of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey received the chairman of Minsk conference of CSCE on mountainous Karabakh, Italian diplomat Mario Rafaelli, who arrived in Baku. "The next visit of Mario Rafaelli is the continuation of attempts to settle Azeri-Armenian conflict by peaceful ways," said the head of press-service of the president Arif Aliyev to ASSA-IRADA.

During the meeting Elchibey noted that the Azerbaijan's position is intendedly distorted in the world. The big powers can do a lot to improve the situation but they do not hurry for some reasons and that is why the settlement of problem is delayed. During the meeting the Azeri side mentioned that all our attempts are blockaded by Armenia. When Mario Rafaelli said that positive moves are noted at the Armenians' position, then President Elchibey raised an objection that in that case Armenia

should openly confess that it has no territorial intentions to Azerbaijan. But we don't see such confession in reality.

Today, Mario Rafaelli is intended to leave for Khankendi, if the military hostilities allow, and then to Yerevan.

Official Claims Efforts To Build Commonwealth Will Fail

NC2501140893 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0521 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 23.01.92 (ASSA-IRADA)—The Russia [as received] is interested and hopes that Azerbaijan joins CIS, said Vafa Guluzade, state adviser on international matters, to ASSA-IRADA. He returned from Minsk, where the meeting of heads of Commonwealth countries was held. Economic pressure on Azerbaijan won't take place, he added. As it was reported [the] Azerbaijan delegation participated at the meeting in Minsk as [an] observer, but took an active part in discussions on communications. According to view of V. Guluzade, the Commonwealth has no future and this attempt to restore [the] collapsed USSR in [a] new form will fail.

Karabakh Artillery Repulse Tank Attacks Near Lachin

LD2401135393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent D. Pisarenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A fierce war is continuing on the approaches to the Lachin humanitarian corridor. Warned in advance that the Azerbaijan Army was preparing for an offensive in this area, Nagorno-Karabakh's self-defense forces have been successfully withstanding the enemy's onslaught.

As a result of effective actions by the Karabakh artillery, five tank attacks by the Azerbaijanis have been repulsed and one Grad missile launcher destroyed. The Lachin district commandant's office reports that at approximately 1500 hours yesterday even hand-to-hand fighting in the vicinity of three populated localities ended inconclusively.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement over the violation of the republic's airspace by an Azerbaijani MiG-25RB aircraft. The intruder was shot down. The statement says that all attempted encroachments on the inviolability of Armenia's borders will continue to be cut short in the same way.

President Addresses Nation on Solidarity

NC2401190593 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 19 Jan 93

["Text" of an "appeal" by President Abulfaz Elchibey to the Azerbaijani people on 19 January; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed fellow countrymen: Three years have passed since the bloody January incidents in 1990. That tragic situation was the [words indistinct]. Those responsible for that incident will never be able to save themselves from [words indistinct]. History will judge them seriously. The judgment day lies ahead.

The sons of the homeland have a lot of blood to shed. The page of martyrs in our history has not been turned yet. The people of Azerbaijan will never forget that cold day in January. Although the people were divided and fragmented for many years, they came together and stood up to call for their republic's territorial integrity. The people, suppressed by the totalitarian regime for 70 years, took to the streets for freedom and democracy. The Soviet imperialists fired on their wish and hope [words indistinct]. The local [word indistinct] depended on the imperialist bayonets to defend their corrupt administration. The tree of freedom was watered with martyrs' blood that night. Had it not been for our martyrs, the path that leads to our freedom would have been more problematic, long, and difficult. For the first time ever, the people realized that they had to rely on their own community and strength.

However, the struggle still continues. Several parts of our territory are occupied. We are still building our state. If we fail to hoist our tricolor flag in each and every city and town in our country, we will have abandoned the blood of our martyrs. If we fail to strengthen our independence and establish our state, we will have forsaken the souls of our martyrs.

In view of all this, I urge the Azerbaijani people to act with solidarity. God bless the souls of our martyrs.

Nakhichevan Running Short of Flour, Electric Power

OW2301150393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Supreme majlis of the Nakhichevan autonomy [as received] of Azerbaijan, Geydar Aliyev, describes the local situation as critical. He has told an IF [INTERFAX] reporter that owing to Armenian blockade all the industrial facilities are standing still and Nakhichevan is running short of baking flour and experiencing acute shortages of electrical power.

'Party of Independent Azerbaijan' Holds Congress

NC2301185593 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1529 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, January 23 (ASSA-IRADA)—The Constituent Congress of the Party of Independent Azerbaijan [PIA] adopted the programme and rules of the party and completed its work. The main aim of the new party is to promote overcoming the economic crisis in the republic, hasten the scientific and technical progress, carry out democratic reforms.

President of the national creative academy, Chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Intelligentsia of Azerbaijan Nizami Souleymanov, who is elected new chairman of the party, said that the PIA is the party of the opposition and will struggle for achievement its aims in the limits of present republican legislation.

The representatives of Russian, Iran, Iraq, the USA and other diplomatic mission, accredited in Azerbaijan, were at the congress.

Foreign Minister 'Very Satisfied' With Turkish Ties

NC2201192593 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] In a statement to newspaper [name indistinct] today, Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov said that reports that Baku-Ankara relations are tense are [words indistinct]. Gasymov stressed that both countries share similar foreign policy views, adding: We wish Turkey could help us more on various issues. However, we realize that it has its own problems. Personally, I am very satisfied with Turkey's support.

Gasymov also said that Turkey's decision to sell electricity to Armenia has created a misunderstanding among the Azerbaijani people. However, he stressed that it has become clear after consultations with Turkish leaders that Turkey will delay the deal until Armenia signs a peace agreement with Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Parliament Ends Debate on Relations With Russia

LD2201211493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 22 TASS—It took almost 12 hours for the Georgian Parliament to discuss at a closed extraordinary session prospects for the creation of agreement-legal basis of inter-state relations with Russia.

State head and Parliament Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze addressed the meeting at its end. According to some information, he managed to incline the majority of deputies to the need for establishing good-neighbourly and friendly relations with Russia on the basis of a treaty on friendship and cooperation and a large package of agreements, whose preparations for signing are nearing completion.

It is believed today's meeting will ease the procedure to ratify the above-mentioned documents in the Georgian Parliament after their signing.

Round of Talks on Relations With Russia Begins

OW2501145993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The third round of the Russian-Georgian negotiations, to prepare a package of documents to regulate mutual relations of both countries in different spheres, began on Monday [25 January] in Tbilisi.

Feliks Kovalev, the Ambassador at Large, heads the Russian delegation, while the Georgian delegation is headed by Mikhail Ukleba, the first deputy Foreign Minister of the republic.

The parties agreed that the package of Russian-Georgian agreements will be signed by the Russian and Georgian leaders, as a whole.

Shevardnadze Comments

OW2301140893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [23 January], Russia and Georgia opened the third round of talks devoted to the drafting of a comprehensive inter-state agreement. The Georgian Foreign Ministry's press center informed INTERFAX that the talks will concentrate on the treaty of friendship and cooperation.

Speaking in parliament about Russian-Georgian relations, Eduard Shevardnadze said on Friday [22 January] that Georgia's national interests require good-neighbourly relations with Russia and with other neighbours as well. "If we break our links with Russia our economy will come to a halt, and other negative things will happen," he said.

He also pointed out that there are influential forces in Russia which would like to revive the empire called the Soviet Union. He noted in this connection that the democratic gains in Russia should be given full support. "Sober-minded Russian politicians are well aware that a come-back to the past is impossible because the world community will resist it," he stated. Democratic Russia opposes a split in Russia because it may cause a chain reaction and Russia's subsequent break-up, said Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze for Friendship Treaty

LD2501170693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1624 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 25 January—Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament, speaking on radio today, again came out in favor of signing a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Russia. Taking issue with his opponents in Parliament and in a number of political parties, who insist on an immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of the republic, Eduard Shevardnadze recalled that the Federal Republic of Germany, in order to accelerate this process, had to make billions available in subsidies to enable the Russian soldiers and officers being withdrawn from Germany to get a place to live in Russia and to adapt themselves to the local conditions. Georgia, the head of Parliament stressed, has no such financial potential at its disposal and that is why it is necessary to give Russia time—two or three years.

Military Base in Tbilisi Attacked; Weapons Seized

OW2201191793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1902 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Tbilisi there has been an attack against a Russian supply base of the Trans-Caucasia military district. The headquarters of the Russian Border guards said that about 50 gunmen in combat fatigues blockaded the base and forced their way inside at about 14:00 [1100 GMT] on Friday.

Shots were fired at those border guards who refused to obey the attackers. Two border guards were killed. The attackers seized military equipment and ammunition.

The command of the Trans-Caucasia military district has lodged a protest with the Defence Ministry of Georgia.

Russian Border Troops Protest

LD2301150493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] The headquarters of the Russian Federation border troops stationed in Georgia has sent a protest to the Georgian leadership in connection with yesterday's attack on border units' depots. As is known, as a result of this attack a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was stolen.

In the view of the Russian servicemen, attacks on Russian Army units, which have become more frequent in the past few days, are nothing but a provocation aimed at wrecking the Georgian-Russian talks.

This was reported by the IPRINDA news agency.

Shevardnadze: Attack Must Not Stop Talks

OW2401094993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0935 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze has said that "it must not be allowed" that the death of two servicemen as a result of an attack on a Russian border guards base in Tbilisi on January 22 hinder further talks between Russia and Georgia.

The Georgian news agency reports that at a meeting with a Russian delegation, led by the special envoy, ambassador Feliks Kovalev, in Tbilisi on Saturday [23 January] night, Eduard Shevardnadze denounced "the outrageous act" as a deliberate provocation, intended to impede the third round of negotiations. In Mr. Shevardnadze's words, the investigation of the incident has already begun. The chief ivestigator is Tedo Ninidze, Georgia's Attorney General.

Mr. Kovalev, for his part, called for an end to ill-will towards Russian servicemen in Georgia and voiced fear that opponents to Russo-Georgian negotiations from among part of the Russian public and Parliament might use the death of the Russian border guards in their interests.

Military Demands Notification of Humanitarian Flights

LD2201192193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1723 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 22 Jan—The press center of the main staff of the Georgian military command in Sukhumi today denied reports that have appeared in the press to the effect that the Georgian side is almost dragging out the transfer by air of humanitarian aid to the town of Tkvarcheli, which is being controlled by the Abkhazians. As a matter of fact, the document says:

The Georgian leadership is doing everything possible for the positive resolution of such questions. Under the conditions of war and with a view to ensuring the safety of the transportation of humanitarian cargo in helicopters, the leadership of the Georgian Armed Forces is demanding that it be notified beforehand of the upcoming flights with humanitarian cargo. Russian helicopters that carry out such humanitarian flights must fly above the sea, bypassing the zone of combat operations, and make a landing on the territory of Sukhumi airport, so that a proper examination of the helicopter and the cargoes can be carried out, after which permission may be obtained to continue the flight. Unfortunately, the statement says, "Frequently the Russian side evades fulfillment of these conditions."

Agreement on Aid Flights

LD2401180493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sukhumi January 24 TASS—Three Russian aid helicopters with humanitarian aid will leave Sochi for Tkvarcheli early on Monday [25 January], according to an agreement reached after two days of intensive talks between the State Committee for Emergency Situation, the Russian Interior Ministry and the Georgian and Abkhazian sides.

Under the agreement, the helicopters will deliver only food and medicines to Tkvarcheli and evacuate disabled and old people and women and children.

The relief campaign will also involve representatives of the United Nations, the Georgian Foreign Ministry and the Red Cross society.

The sides expressed hope the conflicting factions will suspend fighting for the period of aid campaign.

Relief Shipment Postponed 24 Hours

OW2501134293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The take-off of the helicopters with Russian humanitarian aid aboard for the population of the Georgian-besieged Abkhazian town of Tkvarcheli has been postponed until Tuesday [26 January] for the reason of foul weather (strong winds and rainstorms). INTERFAX has learned this at the HQs of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations in Sochi.

According the preliminary plan, three Russian helicopters are expected to take off for Tkvarcheli on Tuesday carrying sugar and flour supplies. According to the spokesman for the Committee HQs, a possibility of airlifting to Tkvarcheli of medical supplies is still being discussed, so long as medicine supplies do not fall under the category of the UN humanitarian aid program, part of which is implemented by Russia.

Throughout the entire relief operation, the Russian helicopters are to airlift to the beleaguered town 139 tons of flour, sugar, potatoes, and vegetable oil. Taking part in the airlift operation will be ten Mi-8 helicopters from Sochi and Nalchik and two Mi-6 helicopters from Tyumen, the latter currently sitting in Volgograd.

The evacuation plan envisages the emergency airlift of nearly 5,000 people from Tkvarcheli.

The spokesman for the HQs of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations informs that according to the existing arrangements, Georgian representatives will be performing pre-flight inspections of the helicopters in Sochi and Tkvarcheli. Another inspection will be staged in Sukhumi where the helicopters will have to perform intermediate landings. According to the same arrangements, the Russian helicopters will be escorted by Georgian aircraft.

Chairman Tamaz Nadareishvili of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers, which is subordinate to Georgia, told INTERFAX that the helicopters will be shot down should they deviate from the established route or perform any flights without coordinating them with the Georgian authorities. He also said that all the helicopter relief flights will be stopped if only the Abkhazians resume their artillery fire attacks at Sukhumi or begin any other combat actions.

In the words of Mr. Nadareishvili, the humanitarian aid supplies in Tkvarcheli will be distributed indiscriminately among the Georgian, Abkhazian and Russian speaking population. Beginning from Tuesday, Russian helicopters will perform similar flights to Gagra and Gudauta.

Abkhazian Defense Ministry on Shelling Front Line

OW2301141493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Abkhazian Defense Ministry, Abkhazian and Georgian forces positioned along the front line section between Eshera and Sukhumi were, in the daytime on Friday [22 January], exchanging small arms fire, and, in the evening of the same day, the Georgians made use of artillery and tank guns, shooting at the Abkhazian positions until Saturday morning. They also fired rockets on the villages of Eshera, Gvandra, and Psyrtskha but hurt no one.

The ministry said the Abkhazians and Georgians reached an agreement on opening, on January 25, an air corridor for taking to Tkvarcheli humanitarian aid from Russia.

The Georgian leadership notified Moscow on Friday about its consent to Russian helicopters' flights to Tkvarcheli.

On Saturday, a Russian commission is leaving Gudauta for Sukhumi to decide with the Georgians on the route for the helicopters to follow.

Attack in Ochamchira Repelled

OW2401133793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Saturday [23 January] evening Abkhazian units launched an attack on Georgian positions outside the village of Tamysh in Ochamchira District in Abkhazia,

IF [INTERFAX] learned from the press center of Georgia's Defence Ministry. After an hour of fighting the Abkhazians retreated, sustaining losses.

In the meantime reports from Gudauta say that the Georgians are regrouping their forces to launch another strike on Abkhazian positions.

According to reports from Tbilisi and Sukhumi, artillery exchanges continued on the front line along the River Gumista outside Sukhumi. Casualties are not reported.

Republic Working To End War

OW2501111393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, declared that today the republic is trying to do everything to put an end to the war in Abkhazia as soon as possible. "A war in one's own country is nonsense and it should not last forever," he underlined in his traditional Monday address over republican radio.

To this effect Shevardnadze does not rule out "a more active dialogue" with the Abkhazians. In Shevardnadze's words, the dialogue has been started already. "An agreement will probably be reached thanks to this dialogue," he pointed out.

Shevardnadze does not reject the possibility that Russia could become more active as a mediator to solve the conflict, due to the document on Abkhazia signed in Moscow in last September. At the same time the Georgian leader declared the necessity of preserving the U.N. and CSCE representatives in the conflict zone—"so that we have certain guarantees."

Shevardnadze believes that the Russian-Georgian negotiations underway in Tbilisi should be held at such a level "so as they are of definite significance for every citizen of the republic." According to Shevardnadze, irrespective of how long Georgia speaks about historic injustice, one cannot but take into consideration the existing integration. "We cannot mechanically break relations with a country with which we have had close ties for 200 years," he underlined.

One Abkhazian Helicopter Passenger Freed

OW2501113093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1046 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Abkhazian mission in Moscow, Ukrainian journalist Vladimir Persiyanov, taken hostage by Georgian forces on January 18, has been released and on Sunday [24 January] brought to Gudauta.

Persiyanov was one of the passengers on board a Russian helicopter carrying flour from Karachai-Circassia to Tkvarcheli, Abkhazia, which was forced to land on Georgian-controlled territory. The Georgian authorities returned Persiyanov his passport, but did not give him back his camera equipment.

No information is, however, available about the other passengers, who included Abkhazian Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Labakhua and three Abkhazian journalists. Raul Lasuria, head of the Tkvarcheli administration, was not on board the helicopter, according to the latest Abkhazian reports.

The Georgians might offer to exchange the remaining hostages for prisoners of war.

CSCE Experts Visit Sukhumi To Study Situation

LD2401194693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi January 24 TASS—A group of experts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) visited Sukhumi on Sunday [24 January].

The experts met with Abkhazian Prime Minister Tamaz Nadareishvili to discuss ways to settle the conflict in Abkhazia and its future as part of Georgia.

[The] head of the group, Istvan Djarmati, said the visit aimed to study the situation in the region, adding that on Wednesday [27 January] the experts will visit Gudauta to meet with Abkhazian leaders.

After the visit, the experts will work out proposals on ways to settle the conflict in Abkhazia and submit them to the CSCE leadership, Djarmati said.

Shevardnadze on Bosnia, Palestinians, UN Inaction

LD2201194693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our reporter, Mr. Shevardnadze, the head of Georgia's State Council, said that the fact that the world is in a turbulent state is due to the inadequate responses of the Security Council and the United Nations to regional and international issues. As to the non-implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to Palestinian and Bosnian Muslims, he said: Provisions must be made at the UN so that if a resolution is passed, its implementation can be ensured.

Referring to the current conditions of the people of Bosnia- Hercegovina, Mr. Shevardnadze said that the European Community and the Security Council were guilty in the face of Serbian crimes. He added: Unfortunately, they have not yet made any serious effort to stop the crimes. He also spoke of the need to change the structure of the Security Council and said Japan and Germany should become members of the Council.

At the end of the interview, Mr. Shevardnadze rejected the possibility of repeating the unsuccessful experience

of communism in Georgia and, addressing people who wish to revive communism in the republics of the former Soviet Union, he said: They should understand that the past's unsuccessful experience showed that Communism has no popular support.

Shevardnadze Refutes Resignation Rumors

AU2501111593 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Eduard Shevardnadze Refutes Gossip Regarding His Resignation"]

[Text] Radio Liberty correspondent Vladimir Kulistikov, on the basis of certain Russian diplomatic circles, broadcast information claiming that E. Shevardnadze was planning to resign.

On 18 January, in a conversation with Radio Liberty correspondent Giorgi Popkhadze, the Republic of Georgia leader categorically refuted this information and stated that he has no grounds whatsoever for taking such a step. Shevardnadze stated: "At this stage in the building of the state, such a step on my part would be irresponsible."

The Georgian leader believes that the dissemination of such information serves certain conservative forces in Russia that are trying to return to the days of old. Shevardnadze emphasized: "These forces are doomed."

Gas Pipeline To Armenia Blown Up 23 Jan

OW2301150193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the small hours of this Saturday, January 23, a pipeline, that delivered natural gas to Armenia, was blown up in the Marneupolski district of Georgia. The Karabakh news agency says the district is predominantly populated by ethnic Azeris.

A repair and building team has been sent to the area to assess the damage and repair the pipeline.

Estonia

Russian Consulate To Open in Early February

OW2301162693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1609 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A three-member working consular group of the Russian Embassy in Estonia will at the beginning of February start work in the predominantly Russian-speaking industrial town of Narva in the country's north-east, the group's head, Igor Mikheyev, told Baltfax. Mikheyev himself will arrive in Narva on February 4.

Mikheyev said the group will consider former Soviet citizens' applications for Russian citizenship. It will not issue Russian entry visas.

The group will also provide a basis for a Russian consulate in Narva.

Government Protests Russian 'Violations' of Citizens' Rights

OW2301163993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1610 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mass violations of Estonian citizens' rights are perpetrated in Petserimaa, lands which, under the Tartu treaty of 1920, formed part of Estonia but at present form part of the Russian Federation's Pskov Region, Reet Tobre, head of the Tallinn branch of the Petserimaa association, said on Friday [22 January] at a press conference in the Estonian capital.

She said Russian border guards put restrictions on Estonian citizens' freedom of movement, checking their papers and personal belongings. Pskov Region's administration, she said, is planning to impose duties for crossing the border.

"It takes letters from Estonia three weeks to reach Pechory, and they often arrive opened," Tobre said. "There have been numerous instances where Estonians living in Pechory had their telephone conversations tapped."

Petserimaa members also said the local press and monks from the Pechory Monastery have been fanning up anti-Estonian sentiments.

Minister Advocates Baltic Defense Cooperation

OW2501115393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1048 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a television news program on Sunday evening [24 January], Estonian Defense Minister, Hain Rebas, urged the three Baltic states to step up their defense cooperation. They should move from declarations to concrete steps, he said.

Interviewed in connection with the meeting between the Baltic states' Defense Ministers and French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe, scheduled to take place in Riga on Monday, Rebas appealed for more active joint efforts to achieve the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Baltic countries, for which, he said, they should particularly make use of various international forums, including the forthcoming meeting in Riga.

"The West regards the Baltic states as a single unit. It wants to help Latvia and Lithuania as well as Estonia. We should take advantage of this standpoint of Western diplomats and Defense Ministers and pool our efforts," Rebas said.

Latvia

Russian, Latvian Delegation Heads Disappointed Over Talks

WS2201130293 Riga LETA in English 0407 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 21 January 1993 (LETA)—The Latvian-Russian talks on Russian troops' withdrawal which took place in the Latvian town of Yurmala were over on Wednesday [20 January]. The heads of the delegations signed three supplementary documents: Agreement on Railway Transportation of the Russian Army's Personnel and Military Cargo on the Territory of Latvia, an Agreement on Use of Means of Communication by Russian Military Men and an Agreement on Co- operation in the Sphere of Communication Between Latvia and Russia.

Commenting on the results of the talks at the press conference members of the Latvian and Russian delegations could hardly hide their dissapointment. The head of the Russian delegation, Sergey Zotov, stated that continuation of Russian troops' withdrawal from Latvia in the absence of any agreement concerning that withdrawal and transfer of 18 thousand objectives [as received] to the Republic of Latvia was a demonstration of good will of the Russian federation. He also informed journalists that an agreement on consular relations between the two states had been achieved.

The head of the Latvian delegation, Yanis Dinevichs, stressed the fact that the Russian delegation refused to submit the schedule of Russia troops' withdrawal from Latvia. Yanis Dinevichs suggested that international experts should participate in solution of the question of transfer of military property to Latvia. He also informed journalists that the Latvian delegation handed over the documents concerning armaments which had belonged to Latvia till 1940 and had been confiscated by the Soviet Army.

Yanis Dinevichs was asked why there had been great difference in data, presented by Latvian and Russian

experts, concerning the numbers of the Russian army's personnel, armaments and objectives on the territory of Latvia. The head of the Latvian delegation considers that the EC, David Utkinson from Britain, among other members of the delegation his deputy, Graf Dandy, from Britain and the Chairman of II PA EC Directorate, Mark Sund, as well as representatives from the Baltics could be mentioned. Lithuania is represented in it by Vytautas Landsbergis but Estonia—by the Chairman of Human Rights Parliamentary Commission of Estonia, Mati Hint.

The delegation visited a military base at Bolderaya shortly after the arrival in Riga.

The delegation is aimed to examine in detail the problems connected with the presence of Russian troops in Latvia and to prepare a report about Russian army in foreign countries and the problems of its withdrawal.

It is one of the three EC committees that have to find out if Latvia corresponds to the demands set for the possible members of this organization.

Russian Negotiator Questions Latvian Sincerity on Pullout

WS2201130193 Tallin BNS in English 1734 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 21 January 1993, BNS—Head of the Russian delegation to talks with Latvia told a BNS correspondent he had great doubts whether Latvia's endeavors to push for a speedier withdrawal of Russian troops were sincere.

Commenting the outcome of the latest round of talks, Zotov accused the Latvian delegation of attempts rather attracting the attention of international organizations than solving such important issues as social and legal guarantees for Russian servicemen and retired army officers in Latvia.

According to Zotov, leading international bodies will never give a positive assessment of such practices by Latvia.

Zotov said president Yeltsin had issued an order suspending the pullout until social issues of Russian army servicemen and retired officers were solved.

Head of the Latvian bureau overseeing the withdrawal of troops Ilgonis Upmalis, commenting on the latest round of talks, said the Latvian government would have to take appropriate measures to speed up the army withdrawal process.

Government Reports on Russian Unit Withdrawal

OW2301162893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1609 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chief of a Latvian agency which monitors the Russian Army withdrawal from the republic, Ilgonis Upmalis, says that January 22 the Command of Russia's North-Western Army Group produced a list of units that had already left Latvian territory.

According to Upmalis, only two of the 70-odd units on the list can be regarded as combat. The others are building and sports units, as well as Army depots and other logistics facilities. Contrary to what the Russians claim, says Upmalis, some units are still waiting to leave Latvia.

Upmalis says that Friday his agency introduced the US, Swedish and Norwegian Embassies to data on the numerical strength of the Russian Army units in Latvia and their arsenals.

Gorbunovs on Political Statement of LMNI

WS2201130393 Riga LETA in English 0407 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 21 January 1993 (LETA)—The Chairman of Latvian Supreme Council, Anatolijs Gorbunovs has expressed his comments upon a political statement issued by Latvian Movement for National Independence (LMNI). The LMNI accused Mr. Gorbunovs that his yielding stand had facilitated the hand-over of the convict and the former "Black Beret", Sergey Parfenov, to Russia so that he could see his sentence there. The LMNI claims that the move undermines the prestige of Latvia, is a blasphemy to the dead victims and violation of principles respected all over the world.

In his statement Anatolijs Gorbunovs stressed that his position was based on views shared by leadership of Latvian Supreme Court and Prosecutors Office. They thought that by allowing Parfenov to serve his sentence in Russia Latvia would show it good will and also help Russian prosecutors to find and question other leaders of a paramilitary group "Black Berets" know as OMON.

Mr. Gorbunovs thought that the move might become an impetus giving Russia moral obligations to comply with the terms established for Russian side in the investigation of OMON case in the record of talks between the prosecutors of both countries.

The head of Latvian state reminded that 22 European countries, USA and Canada have joined the Strasbourg convention of March 21, 1983, on forwarding the convicted persons and Latvia could only benefit from respecting the principles stated in this convention.

Lithuania

Treaty Drafted on Russian Forces' Transit Through Country

OW2301162293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1609 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian and Russian experts have drafted a treaty on the transit through Lithuanian territory of Russian armed forces withdrawn from Germany

According to the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's press department, the document has been handed in to a Lithuanian and Russian state delegations.

The experts' meeting, held in Moscow, was over on Friday [22 January].

Landsbergis Discusses Problems With Russian Withdrawal

OW2501115193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1049 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference on Monday [25 January] in Vilnius, Vytautas Landsbergis, the opposition leader in the Lithuanian parliament, declared that Russia continues to connect the issue concerning the withdrawal of its army from the Baltic states with the problems of national minorities in these states.

He refuted a possibility of great numbers of refugees flowing out of the Baltic states. According to Landsbergis, these states managed to avoid conflicts on national ground. In his words, one can speak only about repatriation of a part of the Russian population from the Baltic states and this is a common phenomenon, Landsbergis says.

Landsbergis also reported that, on Tuesday, the opposition intends to present a request to the Home Guard Minister and the Foreign Minister due to the message of the opposition's newspaper, "LIETIVOS AIDAS", stating that the Lithuanian authorities allowed an additional Russian military contingent, numbering two thousand men, to enter the republic.

Brazauskas Meets With National Defense Service Officials

WS2201130593 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1544 GMT 21 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 169]

[Text] 21 January 1993—Yesterday at the seminar on issues of armament Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas met with heads of various departments of the National Defence Service. Present at the meeting were also Chairman of the National Security Committee Gediminas Kirkilas, Minister of National Defence Audrius Butkevicius and other officials of this ministry.

Algirdas Brazauskas assured the participants of the meeting that the Government will do all in its power to strengthen the National Defence system and not to destroy it, as it is asserted by the Opposition. Unfortunately, the material support of the embryonic national defence is hamstringed by the general hardships of the Lithuanian economy. "I feel a certain dissatisfaction on your part", said A. Brazauskas, "but I wish you understood that every state structure is equally affected by the economic shortages."

Algirdas Brazauskas underlined that neither the Government nor the Seimas intends to suspend, let alone to cut short the economic reforms, although some tactical corrections are dictated by life and that is natural.

The principal task now is to stop the plunge of the production; some prerequisites for this are already manifested in industry. The situation in agriculture is much more difficult, however even there we have realistic grounds to expect some improvement in a year or two provided further decline is prevented until spring.

When answering questions, Algirdas Brazauskas once again stressed that Lithuania shall never join any commonwealth or any military alliances, as it is provided in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. The decision to enter any alliance may be taken solely by a national referendum.

Acting President Brazauskas Holds News Conference

LD2201232693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Acting Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas held a news conference today. He did not speak about his economic program of overcoming economic crisis. He replied to journalists' questions about urgent problems of economic and social life, without mentioning the topic of the elections.

This year we are going to mark three dates, Brazauskas said. The 75th anniversary of the proclamationo of independence will be marked soon. A special committee will be formed for this purpose. This year will be proclaimed the year of Darius and Girenas, and it will culminate in events in the middle of July.

A great event in the life of Lithuania will be the visit by Pope John Paul II. In Brazauskas' opinion, preparations by civic authorities for this event are insufficient. A committee will be formed soon which will include members of the government and heads of the most important ministries and departments.

Asked when the litas would be introduced, Brazauskas noted that it was seriously essential to study organizational, economic, and financial opportunities. After the interpellation in the seimas to the chairman of the Bank of Lithuania, it will be necessary to analyze the work of this bank. According to Brazauskas, the Bank of Lithuania must solve the issue of counterfeit coupons as soon as possible.

Brazauskas does not have plans before the presidential elections to meet with the Russian leaders. In his opinion, a meeting of the premiers would be most useful and it will take place, maybe within the next few weeks. Most likely some agreements will be signed then. Trade and economic agreements and agreements with Russia,

Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, in Brazauskas' opinion, would help to render the work of economic subjects more active.

He said that a long period of time will be needed to assess losses suffered by Lithuania's economy for objective and mostly for subjective reasons. But this will be done; there is sufficient material in this respect.

The acting president noted that many people were dissatisfied with the work of the General Procuracy, but it would be not expedient to take any measures in this sphere before the presidential elections. The Procuracy must have opportunities to work in normal conditions, that is, political pressure must not be exerted on it as it has been the case hitherto.

Asked why use has not been made of the possibilities of economic integration and cooperation of the Baltic states, Brazauskas noted that the Baltic Council has been mostly solving political issues,has been elucidating relations with the neighbors and paying little attention to economic problems. I hope, he said, that more will be achieved in this direction shortly.

Brazauskas, Lozoraitis Sole Presidential Contenders

WS2201130493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1544 GMT 21 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 169]

[Text] 21 January 1993—January 20 was the final term for handing in the lists of signatures in support of the provisional candidates so that they could officially enter the Presidential race. Several days ago one of the claimants, Chairman of the Republican Party Kazimieras Petraitis withdrew from the race. Yesterday representatives of the actor Remigus Vilkaitis announced their candidate would not hand in the signatures of his supporters. Kazimieras Uoka withdrew his candidacy in favour of Stasys Lozoraitis. Chairmen of the Seimas Committees for Economy and Foreign Relations Kazimieras Antanavicius and Kazys Bobelis failed to collect the required amount of signatures. Thus the contest for Presidency has been entered by two official candidates: Algirdas Brazauskas and Stasys Lozoraitis.

Televised Presidential Debates To Begin 31 Jan

OW2301163593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1609 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At 9:00 p.m. [1800 GMT] local time on Saturday [30 January], Lithuanian television is beginning a series of live programs presenting the official presidential candidates, acting President Algirdas Brazauskas and the Ambassador to the United States, Stasys Lozoraitis.

In the first one-hour program, they are expected to present their election programs, and assess the present situation in Lithuania, prospects for its future, and its domsestic and foreign policies.

Altogether, Lithuanian television is planning to show four such programs, the others scheduled for January 29 and February 3 and 12, before the February 14 election.

Daily Cited on Costs of Presidential Election

OW2301163793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1610 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidential election will cost the Lithuanian taxpayers 110 million coupons (commercial banks pay between 0.4 and 0.6 coupons for one ruble).

According to the Lietuvos Rytas newspaper, the central electoral commission has approved a set of spending items. Approximately one quarter of the sum will be spent on printing special identity cards for voters, ballot papers, and forms. Some 50 million coupons have been allocated to fund the 2,060 local electoral commissions.

The presidential election will cost a little over half of the amount, 200 million coupons, spent on the latest parliamentary election of last October and November.

Lietuvos Rytas also said that, under the law, presidential candidates have to be provided with bodyguards. However, Stasys Lozoraitis said he did not need any, while Algirdas Brazauskas has bodyguards as acting President.

Presidential Candidates Hold First Debate

LD2401142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 24 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 24 Jan—The first of four planned one-hour televised debates between Algirdas Brazauskas, 61, leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP], and Stasys Lozoraitis, 68, Lithuanian ambassador to the United States, candidates for president, took place on national television Saturday evening. A. Brazauskas, acting head of state, who spoke first, gave a brief account of his view of the role of president in contemporary Lithuania in tackling the problems that have built up in this transitional period and on the foreign policy of the republic. He spoke on the development of normal and mutually beneficial relations with neighboring countries and a policy balanced between East and West.

The LDLP leader has held various posts from engineer to minister and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania (CPL), following which he led the process of devolving the CPL from the CPSU and became the chairman of the LDLP. He is very familiar with the republic's current economic situation.

S. Lozoraitis, the other candidate for the post of head of state, also has a rich biography. He left Lithuania in 1939

with his parents, was engaged in diplomatic work constantly from 1943 to 1988, and in mid-1990 became the first ambassador of the Lithuanian Republic to Washington.

S. Lozoraitis, a brilliant orator, spoke about his program, the main point of which is that he is an independent candidate, has no obligations to any political party or movement, and "will strive to overcome the confrontation that divides Lithuanian society." The candidate expressed support for the development of good relations with Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. He expressed surprise that there are still no Lithuanian ambassadors in those countries.